NORTHERN ISLANDER

$4.50

NOVEMBER 2024

COLORS ARE CHANGING!

COMMUNITY ALERT!

COA SUPPORT FOR ISLAND ELDERS MUST IMPROVE

SEE PAGES 4-6

AMANDA BEDELL FEATURED IN "I AM A RURAL TEACHER"

GET THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 13

A BEAVER ISLAND JOURNEY- PART 1

HEAR CAOIMHIN MAC AOIDH'S STORY ON PAGE 16

HARVEST ON THE HARBOR 2024

SEE THE SMILES ON PAGE 8

ELECTION DAY
NOV. 5
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

VOTE AT YOUR TOWNSHIP HALL

THE TEAM FROM PFN RETURNS TO THE ISLAND HOSTING A COMMUNITY BROADBAND SHOWCASE

READ ABOUT THE PROGRESS ON PAGE 14

RUSSELL SNIDER SELECTS BARAGA CROSS PROJECT TO WORK TOWARDS HIS EAGLE RANK

READ HIS STORY ON PAGE 25

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Keeping Island History Alive
Established 1957

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
Beaver Island Historical Society

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As we say goodbye to October, we are left with many surprises and memories that will last a lifetime. From the astonishing Northern Lights, and amazingly beautiful fall colors to the unseasonably warm weather. The community once again stepped up with both heartwarming and memorable events like the Harvest on the Harbor, Film Festival, BIDL activities, BICC events, and various activities for all ages embracing the spirit and tradition of the Fall and Halloween season.

While I certainly love my summer months here, Fall on Beaver Island is my favorite time of the year. Life begins to slow down but we welcome Hunting Season allowing many of us to harvest the land to help us become sustainable over the winter months. Shoot straight, stay safe, and enjoy the hunt.

Our community and families begin to prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving and cherish all those things we are most thankful for. I, for one, am incredibly excited as my family has elected to celebrate the holiday here on the Island. We are looking forward to sharing this season with my parents, brothers, and nieces.

The Island life may be slowing down but this community has many wonderful events and gatherings planned in November. Check out the calendar on page 21 or for the most up-to-date details visit the BICC.

Lastly, please take the time to vote on November 5 at your local Township Hall, we have several local positions and great candidates to support!

We hope you continue to enjoy the Northern Islander and with the Holiday season coming upon us, a subscription to your loved ones would make a terrific gift!

Happy November All,
Amy Marschner

Lois Stipp, Lisa Gillespie, and Vicki Matella-Smith had a fantastic time in Maine, but still took time to read the Northern Islander to see what they were going to do when they got home!

Pierre wants to know if you have a story? Share it with us! To submit your piece for consideration, email our Editor at editor@beaverislandhistory.org

Print Shop Perspective

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

Welcome to the Beaver Island Historical Society Page, "The Print Shop Perspective." If you are a first-time reader of the Northern Islander, I am Lori Taylor-Blitz, Executive Director of the Beaver Island Historical Society. The Society operates the Print Shop Museum (Office Headquarters) and the Marine Museum plus two cultural sites: The Protar House and Heritage Park. We work closely with Charlevoix County to preserve the Beaver Head Lighthouse. We sponsor programming throughout the year that reflects the Island's cultural landscape. Examples are Museum Week, Kids Camp, Film Fest, a Holiday Social, Lunch-time chats during the summer season, and the Pollinator Garden.

The Society is the proud owner of the Northern Island and Beaver Beacon Magazine. We think it is a fun history for the Northern Islander as the Print Shop was the home to the first run of the Northern Islander in 1850!

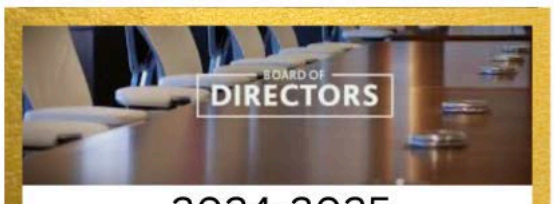
We value your support both as a subscriber and as a supporter of the Society and hope you continue with us on our journey in 2025. We are cordially inviting you to join us for our Holiday Social on December 14 @ 6:30 p.m. at the Print Shop Museum (save the date)! We will be serving light hors-d'oeuvres and beverages. Enjoy the splendor of the holiday lights and decorations at the museum!

Did you happen to notice our Pollinator Garden behind the Print Shop Museum this summer? The flowers and plants were colorful and attracted many butterflies and other pollinators. We thank the Island Roots group for tending to the garden. More specifically, thank you Juli Runberg, Janet Nank, and Sally Stebbins. The garden is open to the public and we look forward to welcoming you next year.

The Museums are now closed for the season and will reopen in May. If you would like to request a private tour, please call the office to schedule a tour with me. (231-448-2254)

Looking forward into 2025, the Historical Society has a new position opening for an Executive Assistant and the ad can be found elsewhere in the paper. The Society is looking forward to hiring someone to help with our planning, marketing, and events. Could it be you? Please give me a call for more details.

Please stop by the Protar House and check out the new roof! This season we needed to close the interior of the cabin due to the condition of the roof. We are happy to report that next year the interior will be open once again. Funding in part was from a Michigan Arts and Cultural Council



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WE DESERVE BETTER SERVICE FOR OUR ELDERS

Open Letter to the Community Regarding COA Status on Beaver Island

By Bobbi Welke & Lori Taylor-Blitz

Beaver Islanders,

This letter addresses the visit and follow up actions by Charlevoix County officials and the Commission on Aging (COA) Advisory Committee who visited the island on October 4, 2024. Islander actions are also described. Our information is only current as of October 21st, the deadline for submission for the November 2024 edition of the Northern Islander newspaper. The reports the County officials shared after the meeting are found elsewhere in this paper.

County Commissioner Josh Chamberlain was present given his role as the designated liaison to the COA, as was Kevin Shepard, County Administrator. Two committee members and two COA officials were present, including the COA Executive Director, Amy Wieland, who did most of the reporting at this meeting. Some additional information was provided by Commissioner Chamberlain. We found Josh's approach during this meeting and his plans to proceed after this meeting to be quite professional and within the best interests of Island residents.

On the morning of October 9th, we attended a County Commissioner Board meeting in Charlevoix. At this meeting Administrator Shepard described a summary of the October 4th Island meeting and a plan for COA to work with a to-be-established Island team formed to address issues and needs associated with island concerns regarding services. Commissioner Chamberlain shared his frustration with the challenges he had in participating within this meeting based on a voucher fee approval confrontation with Ms. Wieland. He also reported on his plans to pursue better voucher strategies and participate in on-Island meetings. Both reports were well received by both of us.

Later, we joined Josh at the Charlevoix Senior Center for lunch – so all three of us could experience what seniors that live in this area experience with COA services. The differences are remarkable and simply not equitable compared to the needs on our island and the minimal services provided by COA. Josh shared that he had met with Amy to discuss moving our request for voucher changes (provide 20/month per person rather than the current 10; increase the payment to the meal provider by $1, and remove the expiration date on the use of vouchers) and they both agreed that these provisions would go to the county's Personnel/Internal Government Committee on October 16th. If these changes were approved, then the same change request moves to the County Commissioner Board meeting on October 23rd. Josh gave Bobbi permission to share this plan with Beaver Islanders and two FaceBook postings reported on this plan.

Late morning on October 9th the County's minutes of the October 4th meeting were released and are summarized within the "COA Meeting Update" found elsewhere in this paper. We found that much of the information provided within the meeting minutes to be out of context, not correct, and/or not information an employer should share publicly about an employee (and some of this employee information was incorrect/out-of-context). Further, some of the minutes as reported contradict what was said by Josh and Kevin at the earlier Commissioner Board meeting.

On October 10th Bobbi shared concerns with Josh and Kevin requesting that they both review these minutes and address specific points of concern that she noted within my message to them.

Early on the evening of October 10, Josh called Bobbi to report, with great frustration, that Amy turned in a report to County officials that she does not have enough time to process the appropriate paperwork requesting the changes to the Personnel Committee. He plans on attending this meeting regardless of the lack of documentation on our needs. On October 11th, Bobbi shared with Josh her version of a required report based on documents that were shared after this meeting, and her reviews of the county's COA budget for last fiscal year and the current fiscal year.

Doubling the voucher program, the slight increase of meal reimbursement, and removing the use it or lose the voucher each month, based on our calculation will cost an additional $23,700 over the current budget total. It is clear to us that the COA carries a large fund balance (money carried over from one fiscal year to the next) and this surplus should fund our voucher needs - as well as future needs our island team would identify and request COA funding.

The COA Beaver Island Budget report on page 5 is based on information we received from the COA office and gleaned from other county records. Our concerns regarding the various reports are reported within many of the tables.

As we close, it is worth noting that like all islanders, we admire and appreciate Lonnie Allen's passionate work within our community on behalf of COA. We purposely do not publicly share any interactions we have with Lonnie to avoid compromising his employment. This report is based on our personal concerns about helping our elderly age in-place, in their own island home. Our involvement is not as a township supervisor or historical society executive director but as concerned individuals who believe people deserve better and we can work to get better services.

Charlevoix COA Cafeteria Daily Menu

COST $3.00

Charlevoix COA Cafeteria

BEAVER ISLAND COA BUDGET REPORT

Charlevoix County Senior Citizen Property Tax to Fund the COA		
Township	**2023-2024**	**2024-2025**
Peaine	$51,758	$56,494
St James	$34,954	$38,841
Others+Cities	$1,646,440	$1,834,160
Total	$1,733,152	$1,929,495
BI Total Paid/To be Paid	$86,712	$95,335
BI Percent Paid	5.00%	4.94%

Tax Funding Commentary by B Welke and L Taylor-Blitz:

1. The County's fiscal year starts on October 1.

2. FY2024-2025 Property Taxes were approved by the County Board on 10/9/24. An estimate was used prior to this date to establish the new 10/1/24 budget. It is likely this estimate used the same tax amounts approved by the board.

Update covering Charlevoix County's October 16, 2024 Personnel/Internal Government Committee Meeting:

The open letter on page 4 describes a proposed agenda item for this meeting to improve our Island's voucher system. The three commissioners that participated in this committee did not approve the requested changes as proposed by the COA. They requested further information.

Islander's Bobbi Welke and Lori Taylor-Blitz are working to move this request forward to the full Commisison which next meets on October 23rd. This request will address the voucher changes described in the open letter and a new request for fully funding our Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas congregate meals.

Approved 2023-2024 Budget for the BI Senior Center	
Dining out program	$44,866.41
Home Delivered meals	$4,512.11
Meal Delivery costs	$302.75
In-Home Services	$1,180.00
Wages & Fringe Benefits	$51,934.20
Center activity costs	$2,158.86
Total BI Center cost	$104,954.33
Anticipated BI Millage	$86,712.00
Excess Cost	$18,242.33

Other programs associated with BI Senior Service are budgeted differently.

Budget Commentary by B Welke and Lori Taylor-Blitz:

1. The COA use of "BI Senior Center" is ambigous in that there is no named Senior Center on Beaver Island. This is really a "BI Senior Services" budget.

2. The 2023-2024 budget covered COA's BI costs without other potential revenue sources.

3. Costs should be based on need, not taxes paid.

Approved 2024-2025 Budget for the BI Senior Center	
Dining out program	$25,000.00
Home Delivered meals	$5,000.00
Meal Delivery costs	$200.00
In-Home Services	$1,000.00
Just Supplies - Office	$500.00
Wages & Fringe Benefits	$82,340.00
Center activity costs	$2,500.00
Total BI Center cost	$116,540.00

Other Programs associated with BI Senior Services are budgeted differently.

Budget Commentary by B Welke and Lori Taylor-Blitz:

1. We are concerned with the reduction in the 2024-2025 Dining Out Program (our congregate meals and voucher program) budget compared to last year's budget.

2. We are concerned about the 58.5% increase in the 2024-2025 Wages & Fringe Benefits compared to last year's budget.

The below COA Comprehensive Summary is from the county's budget book, dated 9/11/24, which can be found at this link - https://search.app/kdjrAcXkLWBw49Ky9. *This budget is complicated, so Bobbi and Lori's analysis is provided below:*

1. The FY2025 Budget lists four sources of revenues, each source should have some potential funds for Beaver Island, not just the tax collection amount.

2. The FY2025 Budget has yet to have their Beginning Fund Balance confirmed as this summary was prepared before the September accounts were reconciled. This is contributing to the large budgeted loss of $1.648 million. Part of this loss, in our opinion, includes the $1.5 million addition to the County Building in Charleviox for a new COA Senior Center cafeteria, which is currently under construction, so the 'old' gym can return to a pickleball court.

3. It is more likely they could project for FY2024-2025 a $256,800 loss (Revenues - Program Expenses) which is manageable because the Beginning Fund Balance is likely projected to be near $2.384 million or so. This is more money than a Beginning Fund Balance should have. This amount was calculated using the FY2023-2024 Ending Fund Balance of $3.684 million minus the $1.5 million building addition.

4. An older audit report stated that the county should carry 8-9 months of funds incase it is needed. At the $2.384 million amount, they are carrying nearly 12 months of funds or 25% more than they should. This leaves about $596,000 that could be spent on programs.

Commission On Aging Comprehensive Summary

Name	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Budgeted
Beginning Fund Balance:	$4,449,674	$3,855,812	$3,888,808	$3,761,688	$3,756,792	N/A
Revenues						
Service Fees	$208,846	$10,384	-$184,716	$136,433	$225,999	$85,700
Tax Collection	$1,402,025	$1,460,538	$1,496,643	$1,582,972	$1,696,910	$1,880,635
Grants	$335,046	$364,587	$413,065	$439,269	$364,391	$299,000
State Revenue Sharing	$0	$76,992	$82,972	$95,022	$85,085	$83,000
Total Revenues:	$1,945,917	$1,912,501	$1,807,964	$2,253,696	$2,372,385	$2,348,335
Expenditures						
Operations	$917,769	$774,568	$720,344	$1,008,976	$1,288,179	$2,460,800
Wages	$675,136	$716,013	$792,412	$797,195	$726,409	$975,140
Benefits	$338,819	$388,929	$422,326	$451,849	$430,727	$561,050
Total Expenditures:	$1,931,724	$1,879,510	$1,935,083	$2,258,020	$2,445,315	$3,996,990
Total Revenues Less Expenditures:	$14,193	$32,991	-$127,119	-$4,324	-$72,930	-$1,648,655
Ending Fund Balance:	$4,463,867	$3,888,803	$3,761,689	$3,757,364	$3,683,862	N/A

OCTOBER 4, 2024 COA BEAVER ISLAND MEETING REPORT

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY
MICHIGAN

Minutes of COA October 4, 2024 - 10a - Beaver Island BIC Center Auditorium

Meeting Topic: Committee Meeting
Date: October 4, 2024
Location: - Beaver Island BIC Center Auditorium
Meeting Chair: Wanda Carr
Attendee List: Wanda Carr, Amy Wieland, Josh Chamberlain, Sheri Shepard, Cathy Kessler
Approved Absent: Janet Kalbfell, Hap Wright
Resigned: Sharon Misiak - effective 10/4/24 before meeting.
Approval of Agenda: Motion ot approve by Cathy, supported by Wanda. Approved by consent.
Approval of minutes from last meeting: Motion to approve by Cathy, supported by Wanda Approved by consent.
Public Comment: Asummary of the Public Comment will be outlined after the Executive Director's Report due to the amount of information to share.
N e w B u s i n e s s : Review the current Services for Beaver Island with consideration to the Public Comment. See of these considerations are fiscally possible. Report to County Commissioners on considerations that are fiscally possible and supported by BI seniors with the hopes of revising current services for Beaver Island seniors.
Commissioner Report: General County Update

ExecutiveDirector Report:
COA Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, October 4, 10:00am COAExecutive Director Notes
Beaver Island - BIC Center

Updates:

- Upcoming Events
- We have hired a new cook for the BASC - Kathy Moblo and she is doing great! Our BASC has come a long way with the help of Krista and the new cooks.
- BASC Update - I attended the Building Board Meeting on Tuesday.
  - We replaced both pumps/grinders for the lift station in the last month unexpected expenses.
- Chx Renovation Update
  - Construction is right on time and going well.
- East Jordan
  - In November LCC will be coming for lunch on 11/7 with our seniors and to learn more about the COA. They do this every year. This is a great partnership with LCC and the Chambers
- Other
  - We hired a Health Care Services Coordinator
  - We have only 2 Homemaking Staff at this time and their schedules are at capacity. Discuss challenges all over the Rural Northern MI area as it is not just Charlevoix County.
- Beginning October 14, 2024 we wil once again be offering our Snow Removal Program.
- We are looking at alternatives to the Health Care Services in home programs due to the lack of staff available in Northern MI. This is a struggle for all our northern counties with no obvious solutions.
- The Area Agency on Aging of Northern MI anticipates more funding cuts to all programs for 24/25 but are unable to share what, when and where at this time. They are also increasing requirements for programs and staff which have affected some of our program planning.
- Beaver Island
  - Bl School will be participating in the 24/25 Nutritional Program with the Voucher program.
  - I spoke with Eric of the Shamrock and Harbour Market on 9/6 as he asked for us to consider raising the restaurant reimbursement. During that call he also stated if we were unable to raise the reimbursement, he did not think he would be able to participate in the Nutrition Program. I told him I would ask the County Commissioners to consider this after hearing his reasoning. I presented this to our County Commissioners on 9/11 at the next meeting and they voted not to make a change to the reimbursement at this time.
  - I have not heard anything from The Wild Strawberry Café though they were sent a contract to consider.
  - We currently have 2 Home Delivered Meal Clients.
  - Options for Meals on BI at this time
    - Voucher meals at the school but very limited on space and capacity.
    - Cold Option and Frozen meals prepared and transported over the BI each Monday on the 10:30a flight. Reservations for meals must be done the Friday before.
    - Temporary Hold was put on monthly Special meals until we could come up with an alternative way of providing them.
  - In the past we have not sent meals over except during the pandemic and for emergency meals as we did not want to compete with the restaurants and take money out of their pockets. They have been great community collaborators when they can be.
  - We currently have 2 clients receiving Homemaking services through our Reimbursement Program.

Public Comment:

- Better communication between BI Seniors, Community partners and COA Leadership
- BI Community would like a more detailed description of the Voucher Program and other services provided to BI Seniors.
- Voucher Program Reinstated with increase payment to all participants in the Nutritional Program - ie: Restaurants, Harbour Market and BI School.
- Cold Alternative/Frozen shipped to Island - to be more in line with amount of food offered on the mainland
- More Vouchers per Month - increase from 10 to 20 to be more in line with amount of food offered on the mainland
- Unable to carry vouchers over to the next month - get rid of expiration dates
- Congregate Meals cooked on Bl once a month in a commercial kitchen October - April. There are other Commercial Kitchen available to assist if a conflict with anything at BICC.
- Islanders think Lonnie is overworked for signing name and writing their name on the vouchers
- Concerns with Beaver Island Community School being able to handle voucher meals with no other resources for Senior Meals.
- Travel Club Trips (Off Island)
- COA Leadership needs to utilize BI Volunteers more
- Add Foot Care by COA to BI
- In-Home Services (Housekeeping) - increase the amount of reimbursement to contractors
- Want BICC to be paid a monthly rent to do activities and monthly meals there. Follow up on missing donations and activity funds that were supposed to be paid the BICC.
- Want the Mobile Secretary of State to visit. The challenges with that were already discussed with Lonnie to share - COA Millage money cannot pay for services that are outside of senior service and the Mobile Secretary of State would want to assist ALL BI residents no matter their age. There is future opportunities depending upon community partners to make this happen.
- Lonnie wants a fleet car like on the mainland...not the fleet van. Solution: He is now offered mileage
- Staff obviously complaining about current pay, benefits and personal frustrations with his employer to community members. COA Leadership and County Human Resources will not discuss employee compensation, performance issues or staff personal options with the public.
- Social Media Request for COA BI Facebook Page as BI residents find it difficult to get information about BI specific COA programs and activities.
- BI Survey

Round Table: Nothing at this time.
Approval to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Kathy, supported by Wanda. Approved by consent.

Next Meeting will be via Zoom on January 27, 2025.

TOWNSHIP UPDATES

IMPROVED ISLAND 911 OPERATIONS AND POSTED PERMITS ISSUE

By Bobbi Welke, St. James Township Supervisor

There are two issues that are important for our community to know about.

1. During any future TDS 911 outage periods, Beaver Island landline phones should now work for making calls to 911. Landlines ring into the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, where a provider will be stationed during the outage. The provider will radio the Charlevoix County 911 unit to notify the appropriate island responders of any emergency. Officials from the BIRHC and our island's TDS technician successfully tested this 911 bypass system on Saturday, October 5, when our TDS internet/911 system was down for a few hours due to a fiber cable cut on the mainland. We now have an island-based 911 bypass system for those times we are unable to directly call the mainland 911 center.

2. There are reports that someone is removing posted permits from properties that have these legally required documents at construction sites. It is illegal to tamper, destroy, or remove these permits which describe the work that has been authorized to be built at the site. Legal action will be taken against anyone found committing this act.

THE EVOLUTION OF PICKLEBALL

By Maria Dal Pra, Peaine Township Supervisor

****Supporting Recreation in Peaine Township****

As pickleball continues to grow in popularity, many local communities are investing in dedicated courts and maintenance of those courts for their residents. Peaine Township is no exception. At the October 2024 board meeting, the Peaine Township Board of Trustees approved the funding of a project, ensuring that the existing pickleball courts located behind the Township government office in Font Lake Park will be coated for protection and optimal playing conditions. The project is slated for completion in the summer of 2025, and it reflects the Township's commitment to promoting recreational activities for residents of all ages.

Pickleball is more than just a sport; it fosters community spirit, encourages active lifestyles, and provides a fun, accessible way for people of all skill levels to come together. Peaine Township is embracing this growing movement, ensuring that pickleball will be a beloved part of the local culture for years to come.

KEEP READING FOR THE HISTORY OF PICKLEBALL

****The History of Pickleball: From Backyard Game to Global Phenomenon****

Pickleball, one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States and across the globe, began in 1965 as a simple backyard activity. It was created by three fathers—Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum—on Bainbridge Island, Washington, as a way to entertain their families during the summer. The origin story is charming and spontaneous: the men initially set out to play badminton but couldn't find the proper equipment. Improvising with a perforated plastic ball, wooden paddles, and a lowered net, they stumbled upon what would become the game of pickleball.

Photo by Pickleballnest.com & Collin James

****The Evolution of the Game****

What started as a fun family pastime quickly grew in popularity. Over time, official rules were created, and the sport took on its distinct identity. One of the interesting aspects of the name "pickleball" is its debated origin. Some say it was named after the Pritchards' dog, Pickles, who would chase after the ball during games. Others claim the name comes from the term "pickleboat" which in crew refers to a boat made up of leftover oarsmen from other teams, symbolizing the combination of different elements from tennis, badminton, and ping-pong to create the game.

By the 1970s, pickleball had evolved from a family game to an organized sport, with dedicated courts and formal tournaments emerging. The USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) was formed in 1984 to promote and guide the sport's growth, standardizing rules and equipment. Since then, the sport has seen exponential growth, with millions of players across the world, including those in schools, retirement communities, and recreational clubs.

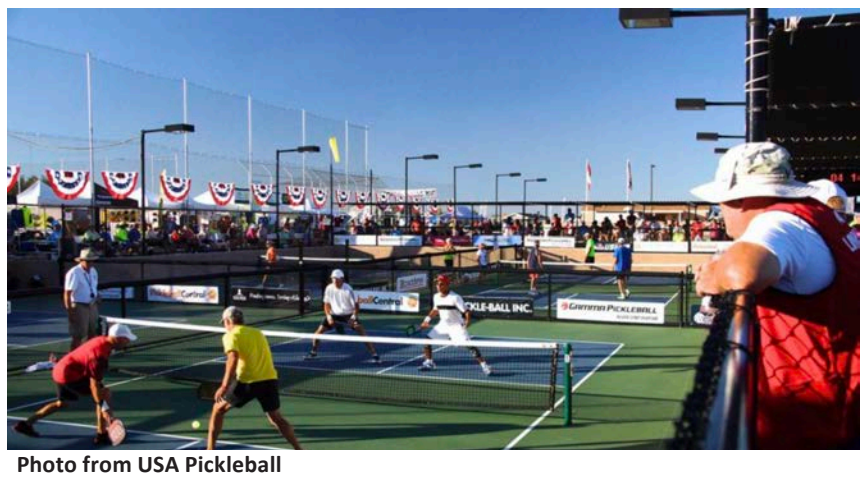


Photo from USA Pickleball

****Pickleball Courts and Equipment****

Pickleball can be played both indoors and outdoors, with the court resembling a smaller version of a tennis court, measuring 20 feet by 44 feet. The net is set at 36 inches high at the sidelines and 34 inches at the center. The court is divided into two service areas, with a unique seven-foot non-volley zone near the net, referred to as the "kitchen" which adds strategic depth to the game.

While many pickleball courts are stand-alone, the sport can also be played on converted tennis or badminton courts, making it accessible in a variety of locations. Some communities opt for multi-purpose courts that can be used for both tennis and pickleball, depending on demand.

In terms of equipment, pickleball paddles are typically made from lightweight materials like wood, composite, or graphite, allowing for quick reflexes and control. The ball used in pickleball is a perforated plastic ball, similar to a whiffle ball, but specifically designed for the sport. Indoor balls tend to have fewer holes than outdoor balls, which need to be more durable and wind-resistant.

HARVEST ON THE HARBOR 2024

This past weekend marked only the beginning of an exciting fall season on the island. Many laughs and memories were shared at this year's Harvest on the Harbor. A picture is worth a thousand words so I need not say more. Just take a look! If you weren't able to make it, hopefully you will be able to join in on the festivities next year.

Once again I would like to thank our amazing sponsors as well as the community for their support and participation in Beaver Island's second annual Harvest on the Harbor. We look forward to making this event even bigger and better in the the years to come. Shout out to everyone who helped make this weekend possible.

WILD STRAWBERRY
CAFE
Happy
THANKSGIVING
From your friends at
Wild Strawberry Cafe
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY HOURS
NOV. 25 MON: 7AM - 2PM
NOV. 26 TUE: 7AM - 2PM
NOV. 27 WED: 7AM - 2PM
NOV. 28 - DEC. 1
THU - SUN: CLOSED
SCAN BELOW TO CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK AND MORE!

NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

October's colors may have faded outside, but colorful programs and services continue inside your Community Center throughout November. Some highlights are described here, with full details on the Community Calendar at biccenter.org.

First, a note about our temporarily expanded hours. Through the end of ferry boat service in late December, we'll be opening at 7:30 a.m on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to accommodate boat passengers leaving on the 8:20 a.m. boat. Tuesday and Thursday we'll be open from 9:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m., Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and closed on Sunday.

Creative types will be happy to know that our Time for Art classes have resumed for the fall and winter, led on Wednesday nights by the ever-talented Cindy Ricksgers. (And if you're driving an electric car to those classes or any other program at BIC Center, we hope to have a new Electric Vehicle charging station in place before month's end, located at the rear of the building.)

Starting this month we're switching things up a bit with our off-season Movie Nights. On most Saturdays we'll be showing a single film in the late afternoon, rather than two films at 4 and 7 p.m.. These will be chosen from a few categories, with the November 2nd movie, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe being paired with the Library's Book Club pick for that time frame. Other categories are Throw-Back/Retro, Family, and Event Movies, which might be double features like an original film followed by a sequel, or themed movie days including special foods, costumes, or other add-ons. Stay tuned to our website and social media platforms for more news on this front.

On November 9 we're excited to bring back to our stage the popular honky-tonk group The Hillbilly Executives led by Zachariah Malachi, with special guest Jackson Smith. Tickets are available at store.biccenter.org. And on November 11, Veterans Day, we're offering free hotdogs and chips for vets, with meat-free options available. There's plenty to keep you coming through the doors at your Community Center in November - see you there!

BIC Center
BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
NOV 2
4 PM
IN COLLABORATION WITH
Beaver Island District Library
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
PG
MARVEL STUDIOS
DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE
NOV 16
4 PM
R
LET'S GET QUIZZICAL!
NOVEMBER 12 & 26 | 6 PM
FREE TO PLAY
TRIVIA NIGHT
November 23
12 to 4 PM
Throwback Saturday CARTOONS
CEREAL BAR • PAJAMA PARTY • NOSTALGIC FUN
TUNE IN TO WVBI'S COMMUNITY CALENDAR WEEKDAYS AT 9, NOON, 3, AND 6 OR VISIT CALENDAR. WVBI.NET
WVBI 100.1 FM
The Voice of Beaver Island
MATILDA
NOVEMBER 30
4 PM
PG
WIN!
TWO E-BIKES
LECTRIC eBIKES
XPeak
STEP-THRU
Tickets: $50 or 3/$100
Available online at raffle.biccenter.org or call 231-448-2022
DRAWING NOV. 30
SHAMROCK BAR & RESTAURANT
License No. 75454
HOURS: MON 7:30 AM-7 PM • TUES 9 AM-7 PM • WED 7:30-TO 7 PM • THURS 9 AM-7 PM • FRIDAY 7:30 AM TO 7 PM • SAT 11 AM TO 7 PM

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

NOVEMBER IS.....

November is
Family Literacy Month
A family that reads together, succeeds together!

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."
Emily Buchwald

Here are some ways to promote family literacy at home:
1. Set aside time each day for reading.
2. Keep books visible around the house.
3. Make regular visits to the library.
4. Read the book version of your child's favorite movie.
5. Organize a children's book club with friends.

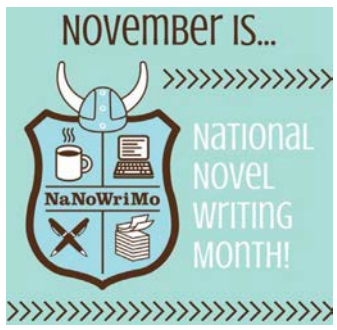
How to celebrate National Native American Heritage Month:

1. Read a book written by a Native American Author- check out our display at the BIDL.
2. Read a book about Native Americans
3. Read the Michigan Notable Book, Warrior Girl, by Angeline Boulley.

WHY LISTEN?

Using Audiobooks supports literacy and 85% of learning derives from listening. Audiobooks provide a favorable option while promoting literacy by focusing on the art of listening. Current audiobook productions-with their higher production values, stellar narrators, and wide variety of formats-can be one avenue to reach reluctant or struggling readers of all ages, as well as proficient peers who are looking for more time to include reading in their schedules.

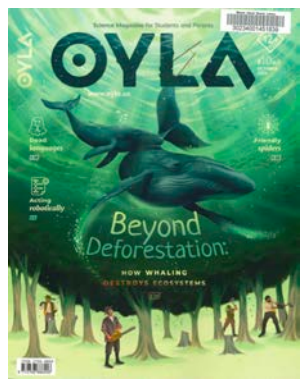
If BIDL doesn't have the audiobooks you're looking for, let us know and we'll get it. Take advantage of our portable CD players, also.



NANOWRIMO.ORG- check it out! Track your progress, set milestones, connect with other writers and participate in events that are designed to make sure you finish your novel.

Have you ever thought about writing a book but couldn't find the willpower to dive in? National Novel Writing Month, aka NaNoWriMo, is a month dedicated for writers to take time out of each day to create a story and finish writing it in 30 days. To get started:

1. Organize, organize, organize: Find a space in your home that you can designate just for writing. Organize all the tools you need there and make it creative!
2. How are you going to do the writing? Handwrite, type.... choose what works for you.
3. Gather your gear. Everything you might need to get started.
4. Get inspired and brainstorm. Let your creative juices flow!
5. Create your outline- a basic skeleton of your story.
6. Start writing and hold yourself accountable to work on your novel even if you aren't in the mood!



OYLA, a monthly STEAM magazine for kids 12+, now available at the library.

Charge your brain, not your phone!

HALLOWEEN PARTY AT THE LIBRARY
Join us Friday Nov. 1 from 2-4 p.m. for our Halloween party. We'll have games, snacks and treats. Costumes are welcomed but not necessary. All ages are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there.

COFFEE WITH A COP DAY CELEBRATED AT THE LIBRARY

On Oct. 2 we celebrated National Coffee with a Cop Day with our very own island deputies. The grade school and homeschool students met with Levi Conner and Neil Green sharing donuts, refreshments, and conversations. The kids loved asking questions about the deputy's uniforms, equipment, and learning when it's ok to call 911. This event helps build a healthy connection and positive relationship between the youth and deputies. Thank you, Neil and Levi for taking the time to meet with the kids!

NEW FOR FIERO CODE AT THE BIDL: VOCATIONAL CLASSES AND A NEW CHALLENGE!

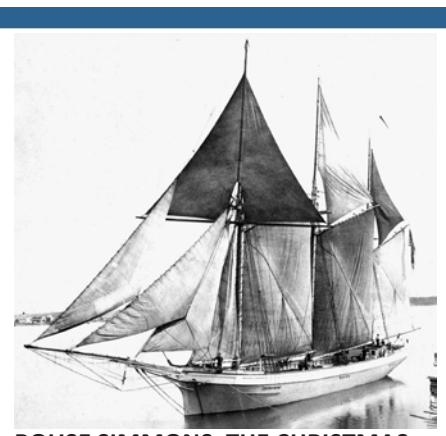
YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE
Code Challenge
THE
Short Story
A free coding competition.
October 1 – November 30th
A free coding competition - build a visual story in code, win a robot! Access the competition inside Fiero Code.
Ask your librarian today!
fiero code

New advanced, vocational courses!

We're excited to announce a round of new advanced, vocational courses we've added to Fiero Code. These courses take students from a beginner with no experience to advanced coding skills they need to develop full-stack web applications and prepare for the job market!

These courses include:
• Front-end web development with React
• Back-end development with Node.js
• Version control with Git and Github
• Full-stack development with React, Node.js, and SQL
• Career development

We've also made improvements to the code editors which include:
• Full-screen mode: pop your web previewer out into a separate tab
• Image uploads



ROUSE SIMMONS, THE CHRISTMAS TREE SHIP WEBINAR NOVEMBER 13 at 7 p.m.
A Zoom event with Tamara Thomsen, Maritime Archaeologist. Uncover the Rouse Simmons' doomed 1912 voyage with insights from the 1971 discovery of its wreck, and discuss the archaeological findings that revealed new details about the tragedy!

The Rouse Simmons has a Beaver Island connection and is featured on the Grassmick mural hanging in our library. Mannes J. Bonner held a ¾ interest in the Rouse Simmons.

Join us at the Library on Nov 13 at 7 p.m. for the zoom event.

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND REDUCED HOURS

The BIDL will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28 and will be open ½ days on Friday, 29 and Saturday 30 1-5 p.m.

FUN FOR KIDS!

Babes and Toddlers will continue on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Youngsters from birth to ages 3 and their parents gather to play and socialize for an hour.

Story Time on Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. is open to kids ages 4 and up, homeschoolers and visitors. STEAM activities, reading and more for about an hour.

Teen Cafe will operate as a POP-UP, with the dates and times to be determined about a week before hand. Arts and crafts, board games and more.

Fiero Code Club open to ages 8 and up, including adults, to learn how to code in a fun!

HARVEST ON THE HARBOR FUN AT THE BIDL

Kids and adults gathered at the Library to make a spooky garland celebrating Harvest on the Harbor weekend.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WRAP UP ISLAND VISIT

By Frank D'Andraia

Beaver Island, Michigan, October 21, 2024 - Several medical professionals wrapped up a two-day visit to the Island on Friday, October 18.

Crystal Barter, Director of Programs & Services, Michigan Center for Rural Health, a nonprofit affiliate of Michigan State University; Karen Cheeseman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mackinac Straits Health System; and Nick Lyon, former Director, Michigan Department Health and Human Services and currently a member of the decision-making team of Ortele Health, a Michigan-based telemedicine services company, visited the island on October 17 and 18.

The delegation met with the health center board and the members of the center's medical team and learned firsthand how the center has been working hard to bring senior care to the island. They also visited historical sites associated with medical care on the island.

"This was the second visit of high-level health professionals invited to the Island by the board of directors," said Frank D'Andraia, President of the BIRHC Board. In 2022 senior management from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services accepted an invitation to visit the Island.

During the current visit Barter, Cheeseman, and Lyon toured the rural health center and were shown recent upgrades, including the recently refurbished Trauma Room #6, and learned how new technology and equipment have improved patient comfort and helped to prevent further patient injury while being treated.

"We enjoyed having the opportunity to speak to these three health professionals about rural health care challenges and show them in-person what collaboration and state aid means to a medical center like ours," said Ann Partridge, the center's Managing Director. The visit underscored the Michigan medical community's commitment to deepening the cooperation and assistance to rural and remote medical facilities like the Beaver Island Rural Health Center.

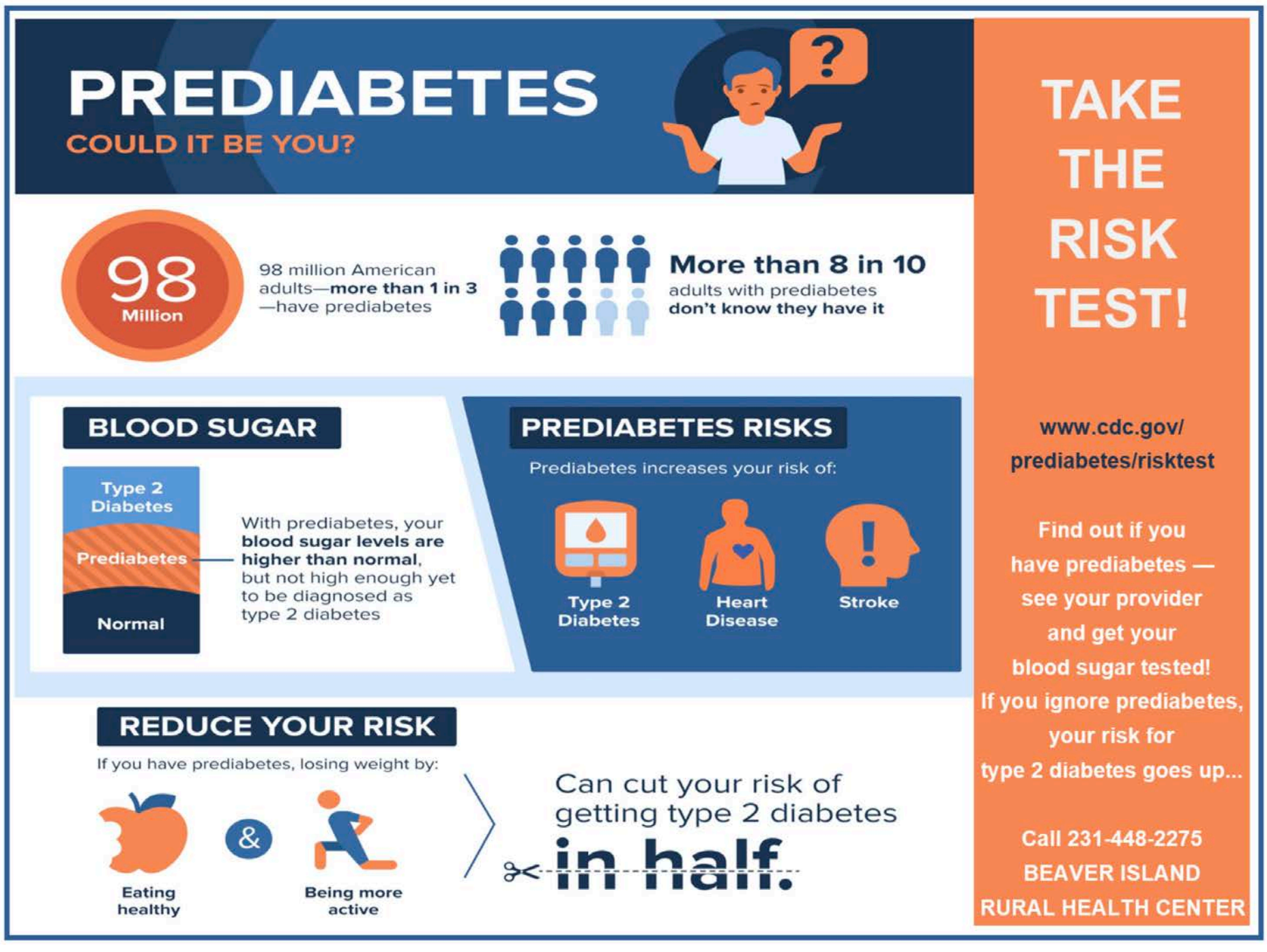
Ann Partridge, Frank D'Andraia, Crystal Barter, Karen Cheeseman, Nick Lyon, and BIRHC board members Lori Taylor Blitz and Connie Wojan.

ORGANIZATIONS EMPOWER THE RURAL HEALTH CENTER TO RESPOND WHEREVER THE NEED IS GREATEST

By making proactive donations, the Beaver Island Coffee Company, the Beaver Island Golf Course, the Beaver Island Retreat, McDonough Construction, Whiskey Point Brewery and the Wild Strawberry Cafe ensure the Rural Health Center is prepared to carry out its mission to provide high-quality, cost-effective patient Treatment and wellness services as the primary care facility to the Beaver Island community.

These six corporate citizens join 15 other area and community businesses (See: https://www.biruralhealth.org/corporate-sponsors/) who support the Island's Medical Center. The Board of Director of the Rural Health Center gratefully acknowledge their support.

Donor support is the 4th largest revenue stream for the island's medical center and the cost of operating the center is about $1,000,000 annually. Donations to the Health Center matter.


PREDIABETES
COULD IT BE YOU?
98 Million
98 million American adults—more than 1 in 3 —have prediabetes
More than 8 in 10
adults with prediabetes don't know they have it
BLOOD SUGAR
Type 2 Diabetes
Prediabetes
Normal
With prediabetes, your blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough yet to be diagnosed as type 2 diabetes
PREDIABETES RISKS
Prediabetes increases your risk of:
Type 2 Diabetes
Heart Disease
Stroke
REDUCE YOUR RISK
If you have prediabetes, losing weight by:
Eating healthy
&
Being more active
Can cut your risk of getting type 2 diabetes in half.
TAKE THE RISK TEST!
www.cdc.gov/prediabetes/risktest
Find out if you have prediabetes — see your provider and get your blood sugar tested!
If you ignore prediabetes, your risk for type 2 diabetes goes up...
Call 231-448-2275
BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

ISLAND STUDENTS GO ON AN ADVENTURE

By Olive Ledbetter & Zia Duffing

One of the favorite annual activities among students of Beaver Island Community School is the Beaver Island History Adventure. The event consists of many historical activities planned by our teachers, staff, and volunteers. The students are divided up into groups, consisting of a variety of ages, and walk along the planned route to each of the stations. Students started the History Adventure off with a lunch of Indian Corn Soup and Fry bread made by Brontae Perrone and Mary Kenwabikise. After lunch, the students proceeded with the activities; archery, wilderness survival, seed harvesting, cider pressing, log cutting, sand candle-making, and wilderness medical training.

The first station on the map was archery. This station, set up by Mr. David VanDeventer, had two targets - a picture of a bullseye and a turkey - on hay bales. Mr. VanDeventer told us about how old archery was and some famous Olympic archers. There were cones separating the archer from the bales for a safe yet fun time. The rules were simple: hit the targets with the bow. **"I like archery because it's just fun and it shows you the basics on how to shoot a recurve bow. I got to kill a (pretend) turkey." - 6th grader Ryley Maudrie**

The next station, called wilderness survival, was hosted by volunteer Dr. Wil Cwikiel. First, students learned about the tools around them and what to use them for. Scraping flint and steel together would create sparks. Sticks and branches could be the base for a fort, or they might keep a flame going.The students then decided if they wanted to light a fire or assemble shelter. While some groups may not have built the perfect shelter or started a fire, they learned more about the wilderness and working with each other.

Another one of our many stations was seed harvesting. Heidi Vigil, another one of our lovely volunteers, helped with this station and showed us how to thresh and plant the seeds. We harvested Hollyhock seeds straight from the stock, along with many other plants. At the end, we got to take home our freshly threshed seeds.

At log cutting, our next station on the map, Mr. Levi Connor spoke about when a lot of Michigan's trees were cut down. They transported all this wood by floating it down Lake Michigan to build Chicago. Then, after giving us the history behind Michigan deforestation, we learned how to cut logs using a two-man saw.

Sand Candles, our next station for the BICS history adventure, was presented down at the public beach. Dr. Campbell helped the groups make sand candles down in the wet sand. First, we made a hole in the sand in the shape we wanted our candle. Next, if we wanted, we added seashells and rocks as decoration to our candle. Then Dr. C would pour soy wax in the hole. After this, you would add your wick, and then you're done! All that was left was to wait for the candles to solidify.

In the fourth station, Ms. Katie Johnson showed the students and staff of BICS how to press apple into cider. Dozens of apples were picked fresh from the island trees for everyone to enjoy. A student would turn the grinder wheel that would turn the metal grinder box. The ground apples would then be stored in a wooden canister, waiting to become compressed into cider. Apples were then placed in the press and a student would turn the handle to press the juice out of the apples. The cider would leave the wooden canister and drip into an empty jug. The students all got to drink a few cups of cider, knowing they helped make it. **"I liked the one where I got to crush the apples." - 3rd grader Margaux Legaspi**

In the next station, students learned how to carry an injured person, using only two sticks and a piece of cloth. After attempting to carry a mannequin named Terry to a bucket and back, we were shown how to make a stretcher. To make one, we folded the cloth in half, put the sticks human length apart, folded the cloth over the sticks, and let the weight of Terry hold the stretcher together. **"I like the one where the dummy had to go in the blanket. I liked carrying it around the bucket. I think it was a fun activity." - 3rd grader Margaux Legaspi**

After the History Adventure, The Stay Happy Band played music for all the students, teachers, and some community members gathered outside of the historical society. Rita Palmer-Stuart, Ava Palmer-Bousquet, Hilary Palmer, accompanied by Sophie McDonough played many traditional Island tunes by Edward Palmer, as well as crowd sing-a-longs such as You Are My Sunshine.

We would like to say thank you to all of our volunteers, teachers, and staff who helped with the history adventure this year. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. The History Adventure provides the students a chance to work together and provides an opportunity of outdoor learning. Ms. Crystal Myers, one of the main organizers of the History Adventure, says, "Beaver History Island brings students and staff and community together for one day! Teaching our students the value of learning beyond the walls and roof of the school is as important as coming and learning at school. Beaver Island History teaches the value of learning outside and about the community and history of which we live in. It's one of my favorite days at school!" Again, thank you so much to all the individuals who helped with this event, we could not have done it without you.

AMANDA BEDELL FEATURED IN "I AM RURAL TEACHER" ARTICLE

There is one gas station, a hardware supply store, a hair salon, a grocery store, and many gift stores and recreational businesses on the 55.8 square miles of Beaver Island, Michigan. Beaver Island Community School is one of the buildings nestled among a tight-knit community surrounded by water. A popular tourist destination, Beaver Island is the largest island in Lake Michigan and sits between Traverse City and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Amanda Bedell of Charlevoix County, Michigan, grew up in rural Ohio before moving to Beaver Island. Beaver Island is mostly known for beaches, forests, a recreational harbor, and seclusion. The beauty of the island and previous experiences brought Amanda to the island to teach. Amanda teaches in a multi-age classroom with third and fourth-grade students, where she is encouraged to use the island as her classroom.

"My previous district would not let me read with my 5th grade ELA students along the creek we could see from our second story classroom window, but my rural district gives me a set of keys and says, 'use the island as your classroom!' Experimenting with what that means for me has made me a stronger teacher."
- Amanda Bedell, Beaver Island Community School

In a town with roughly 600 year-round residents, the school is the community. Oftentimes the school building gets used for many different things; it has housed students traveling to the island for sports and served as a venue for community luncheons, medical clinics, and funerals. It has the only public gym equipment available, too.

Living on the island means everyone is your neighbor. When Amanda taught prior to moving to Beaver Island, she could go to work, interact with students, leave school, and not see her students until the next day. Now, Amanda often sees her students and their families after school. She knows their families, and they know hers. Amanda shares that "throughout the summer my students see me and my family biking around town. We may even attend church together or share the same beach. These little moments truly help build a stronger relationship with my students and their families and is what keeps me in the rural community."

"It seems everyone has the same "loop" after school. Turn up at the lighthouse, stop at the store, check your mail, and pick up freight at the airport where most of our packages are sent. You can see the same family multiple times just moments after the students were picked up."
- Amanda Bedell, Beaver Island Community School

Sometimes teaching on an island can be isolating, literally and figuratively. As Amanda is the only educator teaching third grade and fourth grade, she doesn't have grade-level partner teacher peers, which can be challenging. Amanda had teaching experience before her time on the island but still finds it helpful to collaborate about best practices. Thankfully for Amanda, her administration encourages professional development, and with experienced staff to collaborate alongside.

TEACHING IS A WORK OF HEART

Amanda's community is 32 miles from the mainland, which can either be a ~15-minute plane ride or a 2+ hour seasonal ferry ride. With travel as a barrier, her students do not always get to visit museums or other places as often as she would like. Despite these challenges, Amanda's district prioritizes field trips to the mainland multiple times a year to learn outside of the small island.

Amanda was very excited to go on her first field trip with her students to see a Mo Willems play off-island. It was a big deal, as it would be the first time many of the students would be flying without a parent directly beside them. As can happen in remote places, the weather did not allow them to have this exciting experience. Amanda was on the mainland for a doctor's appointment, however, and was able to attend the play and bring back Mo Willems books for the students. She also helped with a school transportation errand while she was off-island, highlighting how educators wear many hats and must try to remain flexible when it comes to planning.

Using the community as her classroom manifests most clearly in Amanda's history lessons. Amanda's students conducted research projects that turned into books, which can be checked out at their local library. The theme of the books were "Memorable People of Beaver Island." They started out focusing on James Jessie Strang, the "Beaver Island Mormon King" of the mid-1800s. Since that first project, honing in on the strong Irish and Indigenous heritage on the island has made classroom projects more meaningful for Amanda and her class.

"Through walking field trips, local bus driving trips, books, and other sources, we were able to learn how to properly find and use different types of sources."
- Amanda Bedell, Beaver Island Community School

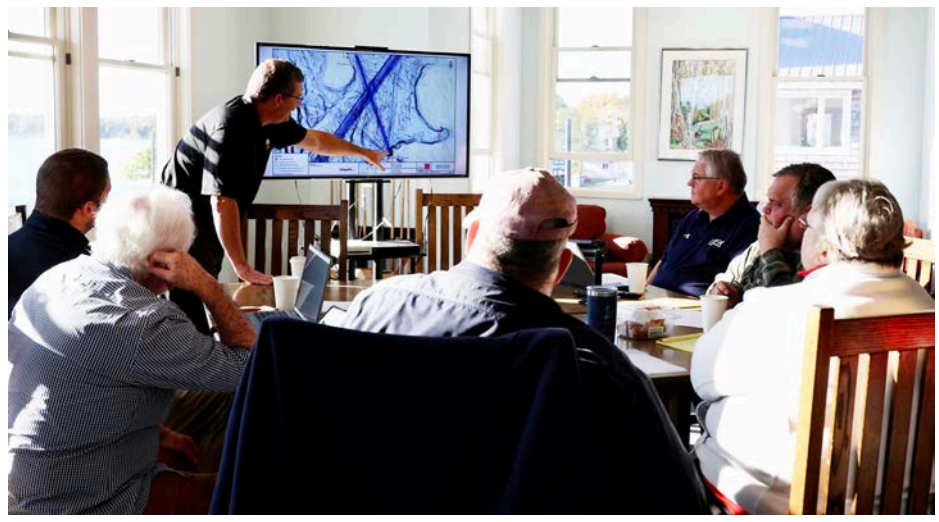
In some ways, teaching third and fourth grade is a lot like looping after the school day ends. Amanda notes that "the students change from year to year and the combination of students can change as well." In Amanda's small class, there is no hiding in a classroom with less than 10 students. "Individualized learning" better describes the environment in Amanda's rural classroom. In offering advice for rural teachers, Amanda encourages them to "experiment! Experiment with your schedule, your lesson plans, physical layout of your classroom, what you consider 'classroom', etc."

Amanda's "why" for teaching in a rural setting is to meet the needs of each individual learner, in every subject, throughout the day. "This is not something I will admit that I have mastered, but is a beautiful evolving puzzle that motivates me to come to work each day." The relationships Amanda builds with students and families over the multiple years of working together and true autonomy in her classroom is what keeps Amanda on the island.

*** Reprinted with permission from the Rural School Collaborative (RSC)**

PENINSULA FIBER NETWORK UPDATES BEAVER ISLAND ON BROADBAND EXPANSION

By Tammy Smith-PFN Company



Peninsula Fiber Network (PFN) returned to Beaver Island from October 9-11, hosting a community broadband showcase and stakeholder meetings to share an update on their ambitious NTIA Middle Mile broadband infrastructure project. The visit highlighted key advancements, including a newly planned on-land route from St. James Campground to the Central Michigan University (CMU) Research Station. In keeping with the project's commitment to sustainability, PFN is also focusing on environmental and historical preservation, with extensive hydrographic surveying underway to ensure minimal impact on the island's unique ecosystem.

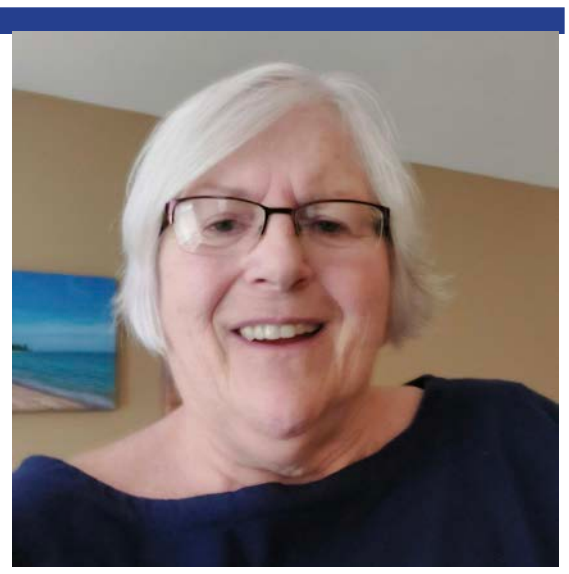
"Beaver Island plays a vital role in our vision to bring reliable broadband to Michigan's underserved areas," said Tammy Smith, PFN's Grant and Funding Manager. "We couldn't be more excited to be back on the island to share our progress with the community as we move forward in our effort to bring Middle Mile infrastructure to the residents and businesses of Beaver Island. Bringing this kind of open access network to Beaver Island will make it possible for any internet service provider to come in, connect to our network, and easily deliver fast and dependable broadband internet service to every corner of the island."

This effort is part of PFN's larger Middle Mile Infrastructure for Michigan's Peninsulas and Critical Crossings (IMPACC) project, funded in part by a $61.2 million grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The project will connect underserved areas across Michigan, including underwater routes linking Beaver Island to the mainland, bringing much-needed infrastructure to remote communities and opening up opportunities for economic development, education, and healthcare.

STORIES FROM THE FRONT PORCH

By Michelle LaFreniere

Marie LaFreniere



I stopped in to see Marie LaFreniere, (Elaine Marie to be historically accurate) thinking I would catch up on life and ask a few questions about genealogy. I wanted to hear the stories behind the story so to speak.

I have to tell you, I am LOVING doing these interviews for the paper. I am learning so much, and getting to know more about the men and women who call this island home. My visit with Marie did not disappoint.

I started with the usual, were you born here? She was not. She was actually born in Charlevoix as there was no doctor on the island at the time. She was named after her Paternal Aunt Bridget Marie who died shortly after childbirth, before her dad was even born. Her parents were Gene Connaghan (1 of 14 children born to Katie Gus and Hugh Connaghan) and Margaret Ellen McDonough Connaghan. Margaret Ellen was one of four children born to Bert and Mary Boyle McDonough. In her history she is a descendant of two different Boyle families, two different O'Donnell families, Malloy's , Gallagher's, Connaghan's and McDonough's. I am going to have to say she is well connected.

Her parents started their married life living in the back room of Rita and Jewell Gillespie's home (Where Dennis Cull's home is now) and from there moved up next door to the Premier (Frances and Archie LaFreniere's home) in a gas station Marie's great uncle Dominick Gallagher moved from downtown from between The Erin Motel and Pinky's house. It was, of course, added onto after they moved it . The last stop was the house that Lisa and Ray Cole own now on Barney's Lake Road. They then moved to Chicago so her dad could better provide for his growing family. By that time they had three girls five and under.

Marie's sister Roberta was the first baby girl born at the old Medical Center in April of 1954. There was a boy born there before Roberta but Marie wasn't confident in who that was.

Interestingly enough, several Island men moved to Chicago around the same time and almost all of them worked for Matela and Boyle, a construction company owned by Jack Boyle (Neal, Tim, Steve, Bernie's, dad) and Ray Matela's dad. (Vicki Smith and Johnny Matela's Grandpa) When summer would come Marie and her sisters would return to the island to stay with her McDonough grandparents. Her best memories of her teenage years were at The Grill, a teen hangout that was across the street from the ball diamond. The water was much lower then. The local girls would walk back and forth between there and the Shamrock several times a night, hoping to see some cute boys.. When the old gang gets together they still reminisce about what songs were on the jukebox and what dances they used to do.. This brought a smile to my face. The Grill was long gone by the time I was a teenager here, but my friends and I used to do the same thing. Marie's favorite season is still summer. The weather, the people returning, all of it.

Marie says when she goes down the hall hill corner and sees the harbor for the first time it still takes her breath away. There is nothing like our beautiful harbor, but Marie's favorite place on the island is the South End Lighthouse (Beaver Head) It has become a very important part of her life. Her late friend Dickie McEvoy spearheaded a movement to restore it to its former glory. Marie embraced that, mostly because she remembers visiting her Grandfather, Bert there as a young girl. Bert was the light keeper from 1938 until they retired the light and automated it in 1962. He had been a light keeper in places like Ludington, Chicago and somewhere in Wisconsin, but Mary put her foot down when she was getting ready to have her 4th child, Rosemary. Their four children were all four years apart, and Mary wanted to be home. I asked Marie how she ended up on the island as a young adult and after she left here, how she ended up back here.. I already knew most of this story but I wanted to recount it, because it is special to me..

When it was time for Marie to return to Chicago for her Senior year of high school, she rebelled and refused to go. She insisted she would drop out of school if not allowed to stay on the island. Her parents relented and let her graduate from here. She graduated with Ron Wojan, Mary DeVogel Pischner, Judy LaFreniere Hansul, John 'Eddie' Connaghan, and Joseph 'Buddy' Martin. She left the island, worked at the Chicago Tribune for a year, returned to the island for a year, and then moved to Grand Rapids for a short stint. Marie says they sure had some fun times but it proved to be too expensive and off to Chicago she went

.

Marie stayed there for 30 + years working for Blue Cross/ Blue Shield. Breaky O'Donnell's step daughter worked there and got Mary Gillespie Palmer a job there, and in turn, Mary got Marie in. Mary moved back to the island in 1972 shortly after a horrible train wreck her and Marie were in. 45 people were killed that day.

Her plan was to retire from there and move back to the island. As we all know, plans change.

This is where my history begins with Marie. My dad was a lonely widower, and began to talk about an old love.. her phone rang one night at 2:30 a.m.. She answered it. Her life changed. Marie and my Dad had a child together, my half brother Rory. Here he was, all these years later. The timing just wasn't right when Rory arrived. Marie says my dad was her first and last love. I personally will be forever grateful she answered the phone. She made my dads last five years of his life happy ones. She signed on for a long haul when she certainly didn't have to. My dad had cancer yet again. Marie also has a younger son, Keith that lives and works in Lansing as an Executive Chef at The Peoples Kitchen. Fun fact, Keith graduated from BICS in 2005, with his step niece, my daughter Emily Gray.

These days Marie spends her time with friends, most especially the Gillespie Girls on Friday evenings at the Beachcomber, and working on genealogy. She has two surviving sisters, Berta and Kim..Kim lives here on the island, and Berta is downstate. They lost their sister Loie to cancer a few years ago. It was a devastating loss for all that knew her. She loves to hear from her grandsons Mackenzie (Mac) and Teagan.They are Rory's sons. She also has a very active Facebook page dedicated to Island News and happenings. The rules are strict to belong to the group, but every single one of us appreciates Marie and her Admin team for keeping it going. It's called Beaver Island This and That. I say this all the time, but I honestly wished I could have stayed for ten more hours.

Thanks for sharing your story Marie..

A BEAVER ISLAND JOURNEY- PART 1

By Caoimhin Mac Aoidh

INTRODUCTION

By Kitty McNamara

The article (in three parts) that you are about to read will speak for itself about the strength of the connection between Beaver Island in Lake Michigan off the NW coast of Michigan, and Arranmore Island in the North Atlantic Ocean off the NW coast of Donegal, Ireland. The unique and lasting connection between the two remote islands began in the mid-1800s when scores of Irish emigrants found their way to Beaver Island and never left, leading to the current understanding between the communities as a recent Arranmore song describes it: Two Islands, One Soul.

The story has been told in many formats, poems, essays, articles, music, songs and books; the article you are about to enjoy is written by a renowned Donegal fiddler and captures his thoughts and experiences as he comes to understand and value the connection. Caoimhin came to Beaver Island for the 2024 Emerald Isle Irish Feile because of his, and Beaver Islander Glenn Hendrix's, publication of a book recounting the life and fiddle tunes of Beaver Island's Patrick Bonner who descended from Arranmore folk. As you read these articles, I think you will find yourself wanting to learn more about what makes this modern day cross-world connection so special and worthy of celebration.

My journey to Beaver Island surprisingly only began a few years ago. I was sitting on a wall on a glorious sunny day in the southwest Donegal village of Glencolmcille (The glen of St. Colmcille) with the village ringing with fiddle music. The Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí Donegal Fiddle Summer School was in full swing. There were more than 100 fiddlers of all ages in the glen for the week with tunes, folklore, and techniques being passed on by the gifted teachers of the Donegal tradition in the school.

I was having a conversation in the Irish language with a friend of mine who is a noted folklorist and with a particular interest in the Irish language. He mentioned something about an island near the top of Lake Michigan in America where the Donegal dialect of the Irish language had been spoken until relatively modern times. I was a bit taken aback by this and somewhat interested in how that had happened. He continued recounting how there was a plethora of emigrants from The Rosses, Arranmore, and Rutland Island in northwest County Donegal who colonized the island. In their midst were more than 15 Donegal fiddlers. He noted that a first-generation Beaver Islander, the son of an Arranmore father and Milltown, County Donegal mother had learned from these Donegal fiddlers and was collected in sound recordings. At that point, my interest level went through the ceiling.

I have been collecting, documenting, and publishing works on the Donegal fiddle tradition for more than five decades. The status of traditional Irish fiddling is considered to be of special importance in international ethnic music. Within Irish fiddling, Donegal-style fiddling is considered eminent by many. The Great Famine had a marked and devastating effect across the spectrum of Irish culture. The traditional music of Ireland had existed in an unbroken flow from generation to generation, however, the Famine had devastated musical communities leaving them severely damaged, but with shadows of their previous golden ages. In the intervening years, recoveries were made but there has always been that notion of pre-famine music versus current traditional approaches differing. Was it possible that with the Donegal-related fiddle music found on Beaver Island might have important echoes of pre-Famine music from the northwestern portion of the county? If there were remnants of Donegal fiddling left on Beaver Island, this had to be seriously investigated. The search began immediately and in earnest.

Following a series of inquiries with my colleague who had alerted my interest as well as several Google searches, I discovered that a collection of tunes, Island of Fiddlers, had been published by a fiddler named Glenn Hendrix, whose interest lay in the variety of ethnic fiddle styles of Michigan. Luckily, I was able to obtain the last copy of the collection from a bookshop in Ann Arbor. It arrived to my home outside the town of Ballyshannon in south County Donegal and I opened it with great anticipation. What I was to quickly discover was that my initial interest was significantly updated to shock! Without even reading the historical and biographical portion of the text and simply looking at the transcriptions, what I was seeing was a number of tunes immediately recognizable as mainstream Donegal fiddle tunes which I had heard played by the old masters of the generation that preceded me. While many of the names associated with the tunes had changed or been misconstrued, they were nonetheless several of the great old gems of a majestic cultural tradition deeply rooted in rural Donegal communities.

I pursued reading the text portion noting the complex history of the settlement of Beaver Island chronicling that of the Native Americans, the Irish, the Mormons, and then again, the Irish up to near present day. I was of the view that if a Hollywood scriptwriter attempted to write an adventure screenplay, they couldn't come up with something like this. It was an astonishing story, particularly for someone from Donegal. I was taken aback by the fact that there was something in the range of fifteen Donegal-born Rosses fiddlers on the island in the European settlement period. Clearly, the dominant vernacular language was the Donegal dialect of the Irish language. The place names of Beaver Island were littered with names with which I was very well familiar and many from the Rosses area of northwest County Donegal.

I was to learn that Patrick Bonner was born and raised on the island and had actively learned his fiddle playing from the neighboring Rosses-born fiddlers. It was clear Patrick was a good pupil as he had amassed a good store of tunes. As an adult, his social playing was in providing music, generally jigs, reels, hornpipes, and in a purely Donegal sense, highlands (flings) and Germans (barn dances), for small house dances and later hall dances for the island community. I would read of his important Donegal-born source musicians such as Katchleen Óg (Young Kathleen) whose first name (Caitlin) was clearly pronounced exactly as it would be in her native Irish language. Similarly, there were also characters such as Pad Een Óg (Paidín Óg, young little Paddy) again named exactly as in the Irish language form. The story began a torrent of familiarity as well as questions regarding the story of the Donegal music connection with Beaver Island as well as Patrick Bonner and his fiddle playing in particular.

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IRISH HERITAGE GROUP REACHES MILESTONE THANKS TO BOARD COMMITMENT

By Kitty McNamara

The Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group (BIIHG) is now an officially IRS recognized 501(c)(3) organization! The process began about one year ago, when the group, which had been a committee of the Chamber of Commerce since 2019, was incorporated as a Domestic Nonprofit Organization with the State of Michigan. Since that November 2023 incorporation date, the group worked simultaneously to prepare for the 2024 Feile while also focusing on developing proper organizational bylaws, policies, procedures and preparing the necessary paperwork for submission to the IRS for federal recognition.

As a Department of Treasury IRS Tax Exempt Entity, our organization is exempt from federal income tax meaning donors can deduct contributions they make to our organization. BIIHG can now receive tax deductible bequests and transfers of funds. People who donated to the organization anytime in 2024 will be able to apply tax exemption for their upcoming federal taxes. The BIIHG board also recognizes that this designation will allow them to apply for grants to support the mission. For those who may not be familiar with our work, the mission of the new nonprofit organization is to present authentic and varied activities to recognize, showcase, and preserve Beaver Island's unique Irish heritage including its connection to Arranmore Island, County Donegal, Republic of Ireland.

The signature event of BIIHG is, of course, The Emerald Isle Irish Féile! which was a resounding success again in 2024! Over 700 people enjoyed the weekend activities, some coming from Arranmore Island and other parts of Ireland and Scotland, as well as all parts of Michigan and the Midwest. The group added Irish music, drama and sports workshops to the event, broadening the offerings. For many festival goers, the event at the historic Green(e) family farm was a highlight as a very 21st century Irish group, Byrne Brothers, took over the very 19th/20th century farmhouse to bring the old fashioned 'house party' new meaning. There were approximately 50 unique activities for maximum craic (enjoyment) during the 2-day festival!

Behind these achievements is a very dedicated volunteer board of directors and two very part-time paid support staff members, Kathleen McNamara and Katie Johnson. The Board of Directors is led by an executive committee selected by the board members to serve in the leadership roles: Paul Cole as Chair of the board, LuAnn O'Connor as Treasurer and Angel Welke as Secretary. Other current board members are Bailey McDonough, Bridget Martin, Linda Wearn, Robert Cole, Pamela Grassmick, Catherine Meintsma and Marlaina Cole. Barry McDonough volunteered and became a trusted asset for logistics. Each of these board members served on at least one of the three organizational committees: Finance & Development; Talent, Scheduling & Logistics; Marketing & Communication. The committees have very defined and demanding roles throughout the year, but, as the festival draws near, all committees pull together to make sure the festival runs as smoothly as possible.

Of note is one board member, LuAnn O'Connor, treasurer who came aboard the committee in its early years and is moving off the board. Lu will be greatly missed. She was instrumental in establishing professional accounting practices as the committee transitioned to a nonprofit organization. The BIIHG wishes Lu all the best as she refocuses on her work at the Beaver Island Historical Society and her family.

COME SEE AND HEAR THE BEAUTY OF THE SEASON ON DECEMBER 18!

Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance

A Candlelight Concert featuring the NoMI String Collective's Quartet will be held on Wednesday December 18 at 7:00pm in the BIC Center theater, co-presented by the Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance (BIPAA) and the BIC Center. Tickets are FREE. The string quartet will also present an educational event for BI Community School students earlier in the day.

Founded in 2024, the NoMi String Collective features some of the finest performers on their respective instruments in the state. Led by Traverse City Philharmonic violinist Kaylee Erlewein, the Collective aims to make their instrumentalists available to concert-presenting, educational, and social event organizations throughout Michigan. "We feel there is a need for a centralized, multi-faceted organization to serve those groups who need extraordinary educators, clinicians, and performers. NoMi String Collective will serve that need," said Ms. Erlewein.

The backgrounds of NoMi's musicians are varied and illustrious, with certifications in the Suzuki teaching method, multiple advanced degrees in music and music-related fields, college teaching and advising positions, and performance experience with chamber groups and symphony orchestras both statewide and across the US. "We are thrilled to present this newly founded Up North music group," BIC Center's Marlaina Cole said. "Their music along with the candlelit atmosphere will be a wonderful holiday moment for the Island community."

The Performing Arts Alliance is excited to partner with BIC Center and the Community School to bring holiday music and professional performers to Beaver Island for the third consecutive season, and to make this event FREE as a gift to the Island community. Tickets will be available November 1 at www.store.biccenter.org/tickets.
For more information on the BIPAA and its programs please visit www.baroqueonbeaver.org.

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BROADBAND UPDATE

By Kevin Boyle & Dick Mulvihill

Last month we updated you on the PFN project, TDS 911 outage issues, and the E-Rate project for the school and library and our dimming BEAD Grant prospects. This month we have further updates on those topics plus additional news about the Pools of Service project to bring interim service to key island locations. PFN reps were on the island as expected early in October to provide an update on their project to connect the UP to the LP with fiber that will land on Beaver Island. They reported on the underwater survey work they've done this summer and provided detailed information on the findings. The survey identified trenches in the lakebed from ice-age-era rivers that flowed between the predecessors of the current Great Lakes, These underwater features limit the paths that can be used for the fiber because the fiber cannot span the trenches. That issue, it turns out, was a primary driver in PFN's decision to change their planned route from landing and departing from the north shore of the island to a plan that will include fiber on the island running from a north shore landing point to another at either CMU or the east-side campground. This is a good result for the island as the overland route will result in infrastructure that can later be used for fiber connections to homes and businesses on the Island.

Indeed, the initial work on that path will be built by Merit as part of the E-Rate project to connect the library and the school. Initially, the fiber will end at the Font Lake tower where microwave links from CMU and the Pools of Service project will provide connectivity to the mainland, but those connections will shift to PFN's underwater fiber connections to the mainland when they are completed. The projected date for completion of the PFN fiber project is April of 2027. Meantime, Merit is planning to begin construction on the E- rate project this fall (as we have previously reported). They plan to build beyond the school to connect the health center and, if possible, some additional locations on the island. That is dependent on permitting and the ability to get the materials necessary to extend the project. The Merit team wants to make the most use possible of the equipment they bring over to the island for their build because that is a good portion of the expense of any project.

PFN's Middle Mile Project will help bring:
Fast, reliable internet to over 35,000 homes
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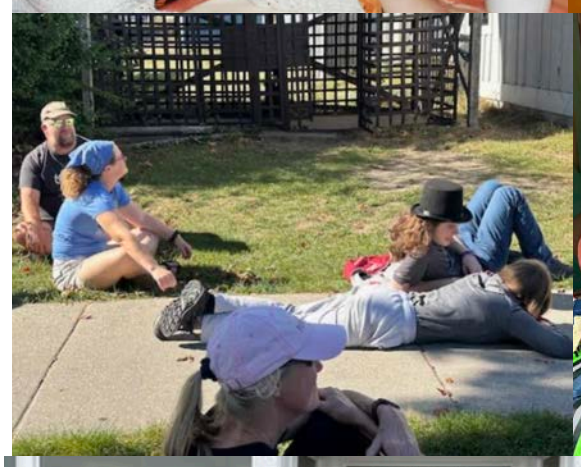
Improved economic security for Michigan
Better access to education and training resources
Timely healthcare services
PFN

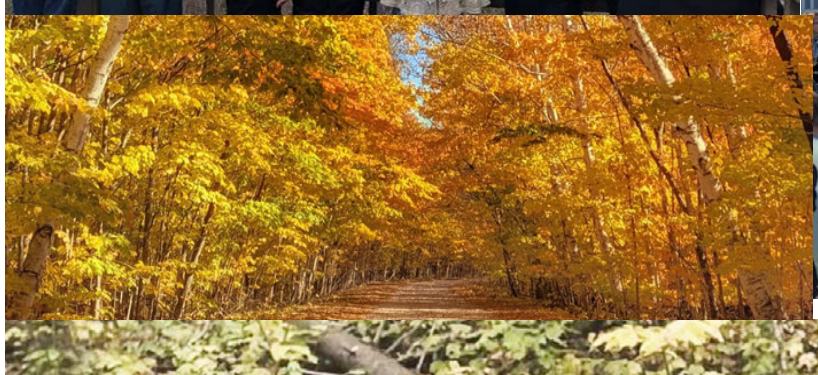
Dick Mulvihill, Maria Dal Pra, PFN CFO Jim Bednarek, Bobbi Welke, Kevin Boyle

In related news, the Pools of Service project expects to complete its microwave connection to the UP this fall. That will add to the bandwidth available from CMU's existing connection to the LP to make 100 Mbps symmetric service (that is, 100 Mbps both up and down) not only at the school and library but also at the Community Center, the Township offices, the Historical Society, and the Health Center. As we have previously reported, the service is now being tested at the BIC Center so users there are already experiencing the benefit of the improved connection. On the TDS front, the company reported to Township officials that it was working with AT&T to reconfigure the AT&T portions of their backhaul to resolve the repeated telephone, internet, and 911 service outages that have plagued the Island. TDS announced a planned outage to allow these upgrades that they said should resolve the problems they have experienced. Unfortunately, this appears not to be the case as the Island experienced another round of outages in mid-October after the "fix" was said to be completed. As our deadline for this update approaches, we do not have informationb from TDS on the cause of these failures.

Finally, on the BEAD Grant front, Dick and Kevin attended the Merit Broadband Conference where they were able to meet with MIHI and NTIA officials to discuss the eligibility of the Island for BEAD Grant funding for last-mile projects. The state has about $1.6 billion in federal funding available to complete Fiber to the Home (and other last-mile projects) as part of the BEAD Grant program. Unfortunately, TDS has elected to participate in a late-announced competing grant program (only available to TDS) that makes the Island ineligible for a BEAD Grant to bring FTTH to the entire island. Although we have argued to our elected representatives that TDS in fact has no obligation to complete the alternate project and have explained the issues the Island has encountered with the service, we have not had success in finding a path to BEAD Grant eligibility for the entire Island. The meetings with MIHI and NTIA reps at the Merit Conference confirmed this unfortunate news.

So, we continue to work on alternative financing for an Island-wide FTTH project. We are planning a community meeting in November (date to be announced) to discuss this plan and assess interest in proceeding with it.





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NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 **9:00 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **2:00 pm** BIDL Halloween Party	**2** **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting
3 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15	**4** **5:00 pm** Elks Burger Night-Veterans burger is free	**5** **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers Mixup **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **2:30 pm** Story Time at the Library **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting	**6** **9:00 am** Peaine Township Planning Commission Meeting **5:30 pm** Committee of the Whole Meeting	**7** **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **5:00 pm** Burger & a Beer **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**8** **9:00 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	**9** **9:30 am** Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group Meeting-Planning Session **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting
10 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **11:00 am** Christmas Bazaar at Gregg Fellowship Center **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15	**11** **6:30 pm** School Board Meeting	**12** **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers Mixup **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **12:00 pm** Beaver Island Transportation Authority Board Meeting **2:30 pm** Story Time at the Library **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting	**13** **5:00 pm** 1st day Boys Basketball Practice **5:30 pm** St. James Township Board Meeting	**14** **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**15** **9:00 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	**16** **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting
17 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15	**18** **3:30 pm** 1st Day of Girl's Basketball Practice	**19** **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers MixUp **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **1:30 pm** Beaver Island Waste Management Committee **2:30 pm** Story Time at the Library **4:00 pm** BIA Board Meeting **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting	**20**	**21** **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **4:30 pm** Beaver Island District Library Board Meeting **4:30 pm** Beaver Island Telecommunications Advisory Committee Meeting **5:00 pm** Burger & a Beer **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**22** **9:00 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	**23** **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting
24 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15	**25** **5:00 pm** West Lutheran High School Grand Rapids @ BI - Boys Basketball	**26** **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers MixUp **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **2:30 pm** Story Time at the Library **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting	**27**	**28** **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **5:00 pm** Burger & a Beer **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**29** **9:00 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	**30** **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting

Christmas Cantata
THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH. WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ANYBODY WHO LIKES TO SING TO JOIN US. REHEARSALS WILL BE AT 1:00 ON SUNDAYS AND 5:00 ON THURSDAYS, STARTING NOVEMBER 3RD, AT THE BI-CHRISTIAN CHURCH. WE KNOW THAT EVERYONE CAN'T MAKE ALL REHEARSALS, BUT WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN US AS MUCH AS YOU CAN. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU ARE WELCOME TO CALL ME AT 448-2393.
HOPE TO SEE YOU ON NOV. 3RD!

funfacts

For the most up-to-date island events please visit the BIC Calendar. We send our paper to print and dates are subject to change after.

https://biccenter.org/calendar/

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BEAVER ISLAND WILDLIFE NEWS

By Jacque LaFreniere

The Annual Harold Lounsberry Hunter's Dinner will be held at the Shamrock on Nov. 16 from 6-8 p.m. Featured will be a buffet of a variety of foods, usually including some wild fare. The Raffle drawing will be held between 7 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost $10 each or 11 for $100. Some will be available at the dinner for purchase. Purchase before the day from any of the board members. (Mark and Jacque LaFreniere, Bruce Beaudoin, Levi Connor, John Earl Haggard, Brian Antkoviak, Shelby Harris, Bob Turner).

This year's raffle will include the Grand Prize a Henry Lever Action 22 rifle, First prize a Kelly Day Charter ½ day fishing trip for 4. Other prizes include a camping package (Sleeping bag and tent), Fishing rod and reel combo, rangefinder and binoculars combo, Call package (Turkey, Predator, Duck and Whitetail),Buck fixed blade knife, ground blind and chair combo, Mr. Heater, a ladder stand and a $100 gift card to Cabelas! Need not be present to win.

Also, this year, we will have a youth only raffle. One ticket will be given to each youth under age 18 who attends the dinner. Additional tickets may be purchased at the door. Their prizes will include a camping package (sleeping bag and tent), Binoculars, Rod and reel, Daisy Red Ryder BB gun, and a buck knife. Must be present to win.

Roy Elsworth **BIG BUCK CONTEST.** Sign up for the Big Buck Contest at Powers Do it Best Hardware store before the end of the business day on Nov. 14 th . Entry fee is $20. Winner will get ½ of the proceeds. Buck must be shot on Beaver Island during rifle or muzzle loading seasons only. Buck must be scored on the island also. Winner will be announced at the end of the Muzzle Loading season in December.

Reminder, the state is allowing any legal firearm to be used during Muzzle Loading season in December.

BIG DOE CONTEST- Bag the biggest doe by weight and you could win a cash prize of $200! Weigh in will be through Deputy Levi Connor. This will be only for the Firearm season and Muzzle loading season also.

Another reminder- you must get your license before coming to the Island. Buy in-person at a store off island that offers that service or go online. Island residents, buy your license online at least 2 weeks in advance of hunting. You must have the kill tag in your possession before going out to hunt and it may take up to a couple of weeks to get it sent to you. Need help? Come in to the library and Jacque can walk you through the steps.

Other thoughts- Coyote population is high again this year so make sure that you track and find your deer immediately or you may not have any meat left! Coyote season is also open and hunters are encouraged to help us lower that population before winter.

Turkey season ends on Nov. 14 . Get your bird bagged before then. Again, you must have a kill tag in possession before you hunt and they are only available at off island stores or online.

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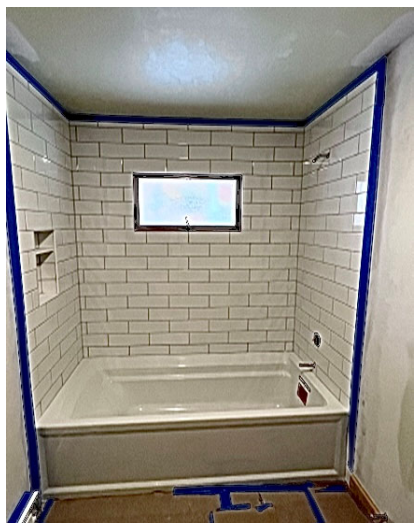

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BOY SCOUTS STEP UP FOR BARAGA'S CROSS

By Russell Snider

Hello everyone, my name is Russell Snider. I am the Senior Patrol Leader and a Life Scout in Boy Scout Troop 159 working towards my Eagle rank. I am 15 years old, and I live in Arlington Heights, Illinois. To earn my Eagle Rank, I must plan and perform a service project to help a charity, or a nonprofit organization and I have chosen to improve the quality of the Baraga's Cross Landing Site on the north end of the island together with the Historical Society. I will be building, staining, and installing two Leopold-style benches at the cross, I will be building a small bridge over the ditch at the start of the trail for better access, and will perform a full trail clean-up including digging out the trip hazards. I chose this project because I've been coming to Beaver Island since I was a baby, and I feel very connected with the island and its community. I want to help in a way that is meaningful to all Beaver Islanders.

Last weekend I finished my fundraiser. For my fundraiser, I sold hand-made lemonades at the annual Pet Blessing event for St. Simon's Episcopal Church here in Arlington Heights. We raised over $700 for the project, which will pay for all the materials, for my scout volunteers to travel to the island, and the remainder goes to the Historical Society as a donation.

I have purchased the materials, and the next stage of my project is to cut the materials and stain them to last through the weather on the island. Then, I will have the scouts over to put the benches and bridge together. I will be traveling to the island with the other volunteers from my Boy Scout Troop to install the benches and bridge, do the clean-up, and introduce my scout friends to Beaver Island. Obviously, it's difficult to get to the island from Illinois, so I don't have a time set in stone for when I will come out but I am currently planning to come out and do the work before Thanksgiving.

I hope this project will leave a lasting impact on the Beaver Island Community and make Baraga's Landing a place where people enjoy coming out and spending time reflecting at Father Baraga's Cross. I am very excited to get this project completed!

WE ARE HIRING

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Keeping Island History Alive
Established 1957

JOB POSITION

THE BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT. THE POSITION HAS HYBRID REMOTE FLEXIBILITY FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 HOURS PER WEEK – MORE HOURS DURING THE SUMMER. STARTING PAY IS $22.50 PER HOUR.

THE DESIRED INDIVIDUAL WILL BE PROFICIENT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1. OFFICE MANAGEMENT
   a. MANAGE DATABASES AS DIRECTED
   b. MAINTAIN AN ORGANIZED WORK AREA
2. EVENT PLANNING
   a. COORDINATE WITH STAFF AND STAKEHOLDERS TO PLAN BIHS AND SHARED EVENTS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: MUSEUM WEEK, KIDS CAMP, FILM FEST, OTHERS
   b. ATTEND BIHS EVENTS, ASSIST WITH SET-UP AND TEAR DOWN OF EVENTS
   c. DESIGN AND DISTRIBUTE MARKETING MATERIALS FOR BIHS
3. SOFT SKILLS
   a. MUST BE ABLE TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY AND COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS
   b. HAVE LEADERSHIP SKILLS
4. SOFTWARE COMPETENCIES IN THE FOLLOWING SOFTWARE PRODUCTS
   a. MICROSOFT OFFICE
   b. ADOBE
   c. DEVELOPMENT DATABASES
5. COMMUNICATIONS
   a. NEWSPAPER, NEWSLETTER, WEBSITE AND RADIO
   b. MARKET PLANNED EVENTS ON VARIOUS ISLAND CALENDARS, WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS
6. EXECUTIVE DUTIES- WORK CLOSELY WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*RESUMES ARE BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL 11/15 OR UNTIL POSITION IS FILLED

Please send a Resume & Cover Letter to director@beaverislandhistory.org or to
BIHS PO BOX 263
Beaver Island, MI 49782

For more information please call
231-448-2254

THIS TREE IS NO ANGEL - BEWARE

By Peaine Township

The name Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima) may sound angelic; however, this invasive tree is no angel. Originally this fast-growing deciduous tree was brought to the United States from China in the late 1700s as a horticultural specimen and shade tree. Its ease of establishment, rapid growth, and absence of insect or disease problems made it popular with landscapers and homeowners. Initially, people were enamored by the tree due to its ability to quickly provide an ornamental shade tree. These same traits have led it to spread aggressively throughout the United States. Since then, it has become an invasive nuisance in many parts of the country.

The Tree of Heaven can produce over 300,000 seeds in a season as well as putting out suckers creating dense thickets. It secretes a toxin that is not only smelly and toxic to humans and animals but enters the soil poisoning nearby plants. This results in crowding out native species and destroying the biodiversity potentially leading to extinction of native plant and animal species across the entire ecosystem. According to The Nature Conservancy, invasive species have directly contributed to the decline of 42% of the threatened and endangered species in the United States. This tree's aggressive root system can also cause damage to pavement, sewers, and building foundations.

This tree is also the host for the Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive insect from China that relies on the Tree of Heaven for reproduction. The spread of the tree has advanced the spread of the spotted lanternfly which will feed on many of our native trees such as Birch, Maple, Willow, and Apple, causing damage and/or killing the trees.

To make matters worse, the Tree of Heaven is extremely difficult to get rid of. If you cut down or kill a mature tree the roots will aggressively send up dozens of suckers. Small trees can be effectively treated by applying foliar sprays when fully leafed out. Larger trees are usually treated by the hack-and-squirt method. Usually using a mixture of more than one herbicide. Only after the tree roots are completely dead can it be cut down. Both methods need to be monitored, and follow-up treatments as needed.

In October approximately 20 young Tree of Heaven trees were discovered growing in Peaine Township. By identyfing yfing the Tree of Heaven early, providing a rapid response, it leads to better control of this species and is much cheaper than dealing with 50 or more young trees. We are in the process of carrying out the proper treatment and removal of these trees. We are also looking into the source of the trees.

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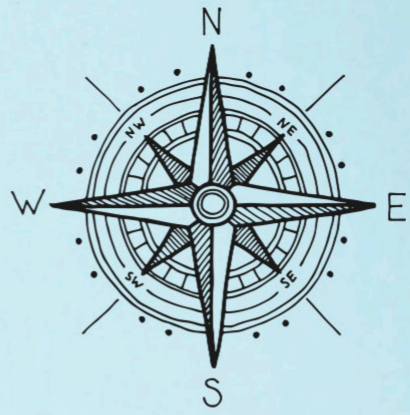
THE PROGRESS CONTINUES ON THE OJIBWAY

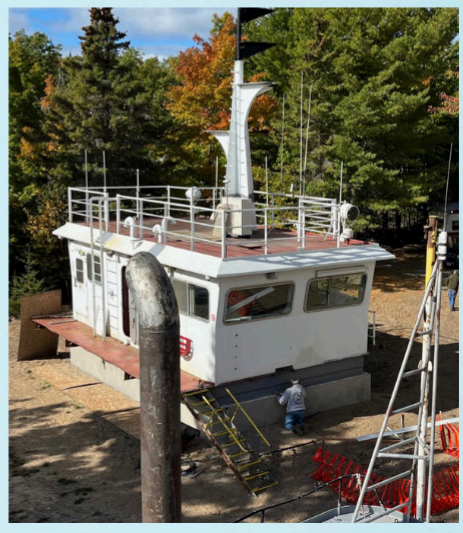
By Amy Marschner

In September 2023, the Northern Islander featured a story called “Ship’s Bridge and Quarters Saved From Scrap-New Home on Indian Point”. Tony Gatliff and his crew from Kasson Contracting, began construction on one of the most unique and intriguing homes on Beaver Island.

Fast forward to now, and you can see the progress this team has made in bringing this dream into reality. While not finished yet, they continue to plow ahead getting a few steps closer to occupancy.

We will continue to share as the months unfold but until then, we wish Tony and the team all the luck in crossing the finish line!





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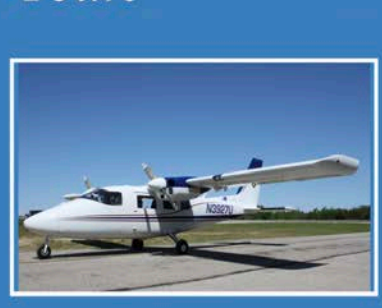

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ELKS LODGE #2886 POKER RUN

By Kerry Smith

The Beaver Island Elks Lodge sponsored a Poker Run on Saturday, October 19. This fundraiser is to help raise funds for travel costs associated with the Statewide Elks Hoop Shoot. The Hoop Shoot on Beaver Island will be held on December 10 at 3:30 p.m. in the Beaver Island Community School Gym. Kids aging from 7 years old to 14 years old are able to participate in the Hoop Shoot.

There were 49 participants. There were 8 stops around the Island at the Eager Beaver Clean & Store, Vince Rice's memorial at Angeline's Bluff, Miller's Marsh, South End Lighthouse, Wagner Campground, the Print Shop. Whiskey Point Brewery and finally the Elks Lodge.

The winners were:
1st Place: Danny Doig $400 Cash
2nd Place: Sheryl Plews $200 Cash
3rd Place: Connie Selig $100 Cash
4th Place: Karl Heller $50
Winner of the 50/50 raffle: Cat Sullivan

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the Poker Run from handing out cards at the stops, food setup, snack bags, music, bartending & waiting tables. Alice Belfy, Heather Cary, Danny Gillespie, Jim Boynton, Vicky Fingerroot, Mike Green, Johnny Matela, Kitty McNamara, Doreen McDonough, Kevin McDonough, Patrick Nugent, Hilary Palmer, Bonnie Rice, Sally Schilds, Theresa Sirvatis, Vicki Smith, Megan Tuohy and everyone who brought food for the potluck.

BEAVER ISLAND ELKS #2886
2025 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

GRATITUDE GRANT

The Elks National Foundation awarded the Beaver Island Elks a $2,000 Gratitude Grant.

The Gratitude Grant will support youth and our local EMS service by purchasing two new thermometers and three pediatric SPO2 adapters for BIEMS cardiac monitors.

BEACON GRANT

The Elks National Foundation awarded the Beaver Island Elks a $4,000 Beacon Grant to support Children's Dental Health. We are proud to once again partner with the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, Dental Clinics North, and a private benefactor to provide the fourth annual free dental clinic to ALL Island Children. The dates are still under discussion but will likely be in late February or early March. All children are eligible to get a free screening, Xray, cleaning and sealants.

SPOTLIGHT GRANT

The Elks National Foundation awarded the Beaver Island Elks a $2,000 Spotlight Grant. The funds will be used to provide each elementary student with a free coat and the secondary student's warm hats and gloves. We will also be distributing one round of free books from Power BookBags.

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW YOU CAN BECOME AN ELK MEMBER AND HELP SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF TO PROMOTE AND PRACTICE THE FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES OF CHARITY, JUSTICE, BROTHERLY LOVE, AND FIDELITY; TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND ENHANCE THE HAPPINESS OF ITS MEMBERS; TO QUICKEN THE SPIRIT OF AMERICAN PATRIOTISM AND CULTIVATE GOOD FELLOWSHIP."

WE ADVANCE OUR MISSION THOUGH PROMOTING PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY. OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, OVER $25,000 IN GRANT FUNDING HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE BEAVER ISLAND ELKS. OUR FUNDING HAS BEEN USED TO SUPPORT VETERANS, YOUTH LITERACY, HOOP SHOOT, PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE AND YOUTH DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAMS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING TALK TO ANY ELK MEMBER OR FEEL FREE TO GIVE ME A CALL: LORI TAYLOR-BLITZ, EXALTED RULER (906) 361-2031.

JOHN SUAVE - BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY FILM FESTIVAL DIDN'T DISAPPOINT

By Emma Sauve

"I support public art on Beaver Island", the first words spoken in the short films featured in this years Beaver Island Film Festival.

Kicking off the Friday show was a celebration of leading local faces on the island, voicing support for the public art that has been established here through festival director John Sauve. Speaking from experience, the Sauve name draws a diverse audience of expression, aptly displayed through our 2024 applicants. Those who made the cut inspire an onslaught of emotions, carefully curated in the timeline ranging from obscure humor to a strumming of the heartstrings.

With a celebration of the island opener, the audience coveted, buttered up for the entertainment to come. We followed with automotive pieces showcasing Michigan events like Roadkill Nights (a Motortrend event that turns Woodward Avenue into a large and small tire drag strip) and Manchester Speedway by the island's own Steve Girbach, sharing the history of the drivers who broke records and body parts.

Scott Culling won best music video for his piece covering his band Killer Diller, taking care of your woman Ska style. Following that was a trailer for a film that turns what we know as Reservoir Dogs into a little Nancy tale set in classical rhyme scheme of course.

There was a number of charitable organizations that submitted pieces giving viewers an idea of what their positive efforts work towards. ARS gallery creates opportunities in their community with owner Anna Russo-Sieber's Children Art Classes and Camp. Camp Quality serves children with cancer and their families by providing year round programs, experiences, and companionship at no cost. Programs like these prove to have an overwhelmingly positive impact, something worth the investments made to create the experiences in these communities at no cost to the participants. We urge readers to get involved in any capacity, and a great place to start would be with the Beaver Island Historical Society!

On with it, on with it, our short films wrapped up in an empath's embrace exploring an almost purgatory like piece contemplating life lost and what's left behind. ***The Funeral Photographer*** offered an interesting perspective on what the next move is after we physically leave this world. Our Northern Michigan territories were romanticized in the Porcupine Mountains montage, hosting the beautiful views that make us love our home state. Another piece from Mark Finnell showed how he's made a name for himself capturing obscurity through a day in the life of ***Satori Circus***. This was taken from the live performance art Satori has been famously known for in the city of Detroit.

The first of our full length features was ***Marqueetown***, directed by Joseph Beyer, is a captivating documentary that focuses on the historic Nordic Theatre in Marquette, Michigan. This film immerses viewers in the rich narrative of the theatre, a beloved cultural landmark that has stood the test of time. Through interviews with local residents, artists, and historians, Marqueetown chronicles the theatre's evolution, exploring its roots in the early 20th century and its role in the cultural fabric of Marquette. The documentary not only highlights the challenges the theatre has faced, including economic downturns and shifts in entertainment trends, but also celebrates the resilience of the community in preserving this cherished institution.With striking visuals and a heartfelt narrative, Beyer captures the spirit of the Nordic Theatre, illustrating its significance as a hub for the arts and community connection.

Louder Than Love: The Grande Ballroom Story is an electrifying documentary that transports viewers to the heart of Detroit's vibrant music scene in the 1960s. Directed by Tony D'Annunzio, the film chronicles the rise of the Grande Ballroom, an iconic venue that played a pivotal role in the emergence of rock and roll during this transformative era. Through a rich tapestry of archival footage, interviews with legendary musicians, and personal stories from those who experienced the magic firsthand, Louder Than Love paints a vivid picture of the Grande's cultural significance. The film highlights unforgettable performances by rock icons like The Who, Cream, and MC5, showcasing how the ballroom became a breeding ground for creativity and artistic expression. As it explores the socio-political climate of the time, the documentary underscores the venue's role as a gathering place for the counterculture movement. It also examines the challenges faced by the Grande, including financial struggles and changing musical tastes, ultimately capturing the resilience of a community deeply connected to its musical heritage.

The Beaver Island Film Festival, hosted by the Beaver Island Historical Society in partnership with the Sauve Art Foundation, is a celebration of storytelling and community spirit. This annual event not only showcases a diverse range of films but also fosters meaningful connections among filmmakers, residents, and visitors alike. As audiences gather in this picturesque setting, the festival continues to inspire creativity and a deep appreciation for the power of film, ensuring that Beaver Island remains a vibrant hub for culture and collaboration for years to come.

GREAT LAKES ISLANDS ALLIANCE SUMMIT HOSTS OVER 100 AT LES CHENAUX ISLANDS

LES CHENEAUX ISLANDS—The Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) proudly concluded its successful fifth Great Lakes Islands Summit, held from September 22 to 25, 2024 at Les Cheneaux Islands, having attracted over 100 attendees, representing thirteen Great Lakes islands and a handful of other Great Lakes community members who engaged in meaningful discussions on critical issues facing island communities.

This year's Summit featured over a dozen dynamic panels and presentations covering a variety of topics, including emergency preparedness, fundraising, transportation, media engagement, and youth involvement. Participants had the unique opportunity to explore the stunning landscapes and historic structures of the Les Cheneaux Islands during a guided boat tour, narrated by representatives from the Les Cheneaux Islands Association. Attendees also heard from the Les Cheneaux Youth Advisory Committee, as well as from experts representing community foundations, Island newspapers, emergency response teams, local educators, administrators, and others. A highlight of the summit was a moving drum ceremony presented by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians at the historic Hessel School House, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region.

The Summit afforded Great Lakes Islands residents the opportunity to network and share ideas in ways that are more limited in their home communities. Notably, the bi-national composition of GLIA provided attendees with the chance to reflect on differences across international borders. Joe Shorthouse, of Manitoulin Island, in Ontario, remarked, "As a Canadian, I was impressed with how the citizens of the Les Cheneaux area enhance tourism with the development of natural history experiences. The level at which Americans in the Great Lakes regions are emphasizing tourism and destinations blew me away. I always come back and inform people on Manitoulin what I learn from GLIA."

Local commerce in Les Cheneaux benefitted significantly from the Summit, with functions patronizing area businesses including Cedarville Hotel, the Islander Bar, Snows Bar & Grille, Ang-Gio's, Les Cheneaux

In total, the four-day event brought in over $35,000 to the economies of Hessel and Cedarville.

GLIA extends heartfelt thanks to the local partners who made the event possible, especially the dedicated host committee, Mark Clymer and Paula Badour with Clark Township, and Sydney Meadows and Teresa Carmichael with Les Cheneaux Islands Chamber of Commerce. Special appreciation goes to our major sponsors: the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; Climate Strong

Islands Network, a fiscally sponsored project of The Ocean Foundation; Resource Recycling Systems; Mackinac Island Community Foundation; Clark Township; the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and The Stewardship Network.

Looking ahead, the GLIA Steering Committee is thrilled to announce that the next summit will take place on Beaver Island in Northern Lake Michigan in the fall of 2025. For more information and updates, visit glialliance.org.

About Great Lakes Islands Alliance

The Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) is a voluntary, bi-national, collaborative network that brings together individuals from year-round island communities across the Great Lakes. These are culturally, socially, and ecologically rich communities with deep connections to place, each in their own way. Living and working on islands comes with a unique suite of challenges – and these are often markedly different compared to the mainland. Through GLIA, islanders benefit from regular information sharing, peer-to-peer learning, and relationship development. Islanders benefit from hearing about solutions and experiences from

GLIA Islands Summit participants aboard the Isle Royale Queen III embark on a guided tour of historic landmarks in the Les Cheneaux Islands. Photo by Peter Huston

GLIA Summit participants at Hessel School House hear a drum ceremony by members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Photo by Joe Shorthouse.

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This popular restaurant with a recently attached pub area extension is just 1 mile South of the town of St. James and about 345 ft. East on Carlisle Road. It has 3168 sq. ft. of first-floor area. This was an active and very profitable dining spot that has been closed for the last couple of years due to the lack of staff, which has been a problem all over America. This business has a bar with a State of Michigan license. The offering includes not only the real estate but all of the equipment and goodwill of the original restaurant area, which is like a family restaurant on one side, and the bar, Donegal Danny's Pub, with food service in the large new addition. This Pub was a favorite spot for many year-round residents of Beaver Island. There's a lot of special refrigeration and freezer equipment in areas, a fully equipped kitchen, many areas of storage, and also a large loft above the original restaurant part that could be converted into an owner's or manager's apartment. The owners are very motivated to sell. A land contract purchase might be possible, but only with a substantial down payment and a balloon period on the land contract to be negotiated. Proof of financial capability must be given to the Broker of Ed Wojan Edward B. Wojan before any showing or serious discussions of a possible purchase.
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BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Keeping Island History Alive

The Beaver Island Historical Society has been awarded $39,450 from the State of Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC). The grant was awarded through the MACC peer review process and was one of 828 applications to compete for MACC fiscal year 2025 funding.

Organizations receiving a MACC grant award are required to match those funds with other public and private dollars. Local support of the BIHS project included the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Museum Freewill Donations, Member & Private Donors, and the Beaver Island Business Community. The Beaver Island Historical Society also receives significant volunteer support from the community from over 30 museum docents and volunteers.

The funding will support operations, Protar Roof replacement, floor repairs at the Marine Museum, Professional Development, transportation for the Preservation Field School, and Arts in Education.

The MACC peer review process allows for each grant application to be competitively considered by a panel of in-state and out-of-state arts and culture professionals. This ensures the taxpayers, who support this project through legislative appropriations, and all other visitors or residents in Michigan will have access to the highest quality arts and cultural experiences.

A complete list of grant awards around the state is available by contacting MACC at (517) 241-4011, or by visiting the MACC website at www.michigan.gov/arts.

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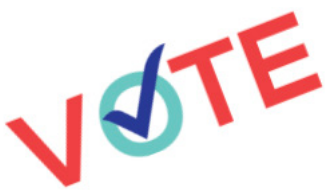
Marty Hathaway

This month we would like to recognize Marty Hathaway. You will know his friendly face when you see it. He has been a volunteer at the BIC Center for a decade.

Marty is a very elusive, unassuming gentleman. He goes about his busy day with a kind and gentle spirit. He is so motivated and diligent that the work is done before you even know it needs to be done. Working with him is both a delight and a pleasure. Please, if you see Marty, as he quietly goes about his day, say thank you and tell him how important his good work is to this community!



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OUR FIRST VISIT TO BEAVER ISLAND

By Jim Freeman

First, on behalf of myself and my wife, Mary, let me say "Thank you" for the kindness and hospitality shown us during our whirlwind visit during the weekend of Oct. 4-6 . Having accidentally discovered Beaver Island on a map and not realizing that there was a big island out in the middle of Lake Michigan with a thriving population, I just knew it was a place I would have to eventually visit. Of course, simply getting to the island is part of the experience, and to me, my initial sight of the island needed to be from the ferry.

I assume that for people who make the trip regularly, the voyage quickly becomes routine, but for us first-timers, it was a special occasion, and it was exciting to see the island for the first time from the front of the boat. We struck up a few conversations with people on the boat: a lady with her two sons visiting the island for the first time; a group of young men from Chicago with their bicycles, excitedly looking forward to a weekend of riding around the island. Before we even set foot on the island, we were both impressed with the outgoing kindness and friendliness that we encountered, from Amy at the Northern Islander to Carol's arranging a delightfully distinctive lime-green Honda Element for us to drive, and Anna and Vic from the Emerald Isle Inn meeting us at the inn and giving us helpful pointers about things to see and do, including telling us about some good stargazing spots. People treated us like old friends, but old friends they just hadn't met before.

We knew we were someplace different when Carol said she would just leave the car there by the dock with the keys in it, and for us to just leave it the same way – of course, nobody could steal the car… where could they take it? The first stop was the Old Mormon Print Shop and Museum, which was operating on off-season hours, but Lori invited us in and entertained some of my questions, sold me some maps and books, while Mary wandered around and took photos of the displays so we could look at them later. From there we drove to the Whiskey Point Lighthouse just to get a quick overview of the town.

We stopped at McDonough's Market (what trip to BI could be complete without that!) and then the Whiskey Point Brewing Company where we relaxed and talked with the brewmasters and got more tips and pointers while I enjoyed a flight of tasty offerings. Then we drove out Donegal Bay Road, stopped and took photos at the Font Lake Public Access, went around to Donegal Bay and identified the night's stargazing location on Donegal Bay, as recommended by a gentleman at the brewery, and then continued around to Barneys Lake Road, to the "four corners" and then back to St. James. Everyone we passed waved at us, and most everyone was motoring along at a leisurely pace, with no apparent hurry. I later jokingly commented to Carol that everyone must recognize the car I was driving, but she assured me that everyone waves on the island.

Early the next morning, before sunrise, we walked down toward the bay and walked along Main Street toward Whiskey Point to get photos of the sunrise over the lighthouse, and of the village looking back across the bay; along the way we passed many others out doing the same thing, walking, or walking their dogs, jogging, and everyone was friendly and cheerfully said "Good morning!" as they went about their morning exercise. Naturally, we stopped at the Wild Strawberry for breakfast which gave us fuel for the rest of the day, because it was packed full of things I needed to see. We went down the Kings Highway, and the East Shore Road to Cable's Creek and Cable's Bay, stopping by the Lake G Public Access and trying to see the main body of the lake from Hemlock Point and South Arm roads.

Next, we stopped by the hardware store and scored some Beaver Island swag, went to The Shamrock for dinner, and back to our room to rest before heading out later to stargaze. The previous day we had both worked until around noon, drove like crazy from southeastern Ohio to get to Charlevoix that night, and woke up earlier that morning to look for Petoskey and Charlevoix stones (with some success) at the Mt. McSauba Recreation Area and Fisherman's Island State Park. Conditions were suitable for the Aurora Borealis, but they didn't show up, but we still enjoyed the beauty of a truly dark sky; a sky so full of stars that it was difficult to identify the familiar constellations because the individual stars were lost amongst all the other stars one doesn't ordinarily see.

The main reason for our visit was centered on Iron Ore Bay, Iron Ore Creek, and the Beaver Head Lighthouse, which plays a major role in the story I am writing based in the 1860s after the Civil War. As we knelt there in the dunes overlooking Iron Ore Creek and the bay, feeling the cold breeze swaying the beach grass and Canadian rye, it was easy to be transported into that world, feeling the unrelenting cold wind and crushing loneliness. Climbing the steps up into the lighthouse and seeing it much as it would have been then, added depth to the experience, making me feel more connected. We inadvertently discovered an island tradition: boodling. I had heard about it but hadn't built it into the visit, but as we continued back up the west side of the island towards the Big Rock, we seemed to encounter the same people at the same places we would stop: Miller's Marsh, Green Lake, Fox Lake, and of course the Big Rock. So of course, we would get out and talk awhile, and then continue to the next stop. We passed the airport, checked out Protar's House and Tomb, and then went back into town to buy some more gifts.

Mary, ever the practical Midwesterner, couldn't pass up a thrift store, so we had to stop at the Island Treasures Resale Shop so she could go through the clothes looking for treasures. I found a pair of pants for three dollars (work pants) and chatted with the ladies at the counter while Mary continued looking, eventually picking up two shirts. While we talked, I learned that the thrift shop raises money for the volunteer fire department. One of the women working there explained that she was also a veteran, and that island life appealed to her because it offered the same sense of community that she had found living on Air Force bases over the years – at least that was how I interpreted it.

The next morning, we went for another walk/run, talked some with Anna and Vic, and learned about the project to get rid of old cars (I can't remember what he called them, was it derelict cars?) and then headed to the airport for the flight out. Then a short flight and our island experience was over, but even though we left the island, I don't think the island had left us – I am certain to return someday. During our too-short visit, we enjoyed seeing a vibrant community full of people who care deeply about their homes, and people who are engaged in community events and have pride and love in their island. I loved the lack of trash and litter, between the two of us we picked up a total of two beer cans, a squeezable juice packet, and a water bottle lid, and chances are that at least three of the items had washed onto the beach during the recent gales or had fallen off the roof of someone's car or truck, a victim of boodling. The simple fact is that you just don't see this level of cleanliness anywhere else, at least not in the United States.

As a veteran of many litter cleanups and "River Sweeps," I know that this level of cleanliness doesn't come easy, and it is a testament to the people of the island that they keep it as clean as they do. You are truly in a class by yourself; nowhere else comes even remotely close. I would encourage one to look through the Northern Islander to get an idea of all the things going on there on the island: they are too numerous to mention. To the friendly folks on Beaver Island, I would tell you that you are fortunate to have a local newspaper dedicated to news on the island. From my personal experience writing for local publications, I can say that a community loses something when it loses its local news… a feeling of belonging and being connected to what is happening, and a local government that operates in the dark and no longer feels accountable to the people. The Northern Islander is chockful of Beaver Island's people, events, and happenings, and I am sure that the Beaver Islanders who no longer live on the island feel more connected to their home by having it. Thank you again for the hospitality, I can't wait to come back sometime when we can stay longer and get our minds set on island time and a slower pace of life.

EACH MONTH, WE WILL BE FEATURING RECIPES THAT ARE SURE TO HAVE YOU COMING BACK FOR SECOND HELPINGS. THE RECIPES THAT WE GREW UP WITH AND STILL MAKE TODAY.

SUBMITTED BY: RACH BECKER

TERRY KEYES

HEARTY HODGE PODGE

Theresa "Terry" Keyes has been serving up your favorite dishes at Paradise Bay Coffee Shop for the past 21 summers. She and her husband Dale fulfilled a dream they had for retirement. They were done with corporate America, but still wanted to see friends, so they converted a garage into a coffee Shop, and their dream became a reality.

Terry was first introduced to Beaver Island in August of 1974. Her husband at that time was the first lay teacher at the school. They lived here with their young kids for two years. Terry made friends with many Islanders, and developed a special connection to this place.

While she was living on Beaver Island, she subscribed to a small, inexpensive recipe booklet that only people who subscribed submitted recipes to share. The Hearty Hodge Podge became a favorite for her family.

Brown 11/2 pounds ground beef in large pot. Drain fat. Add 3/4 cup chopped onion, 1 minced garlic clove, 3 cans minestrone soup, condensed, 3 soup cans of water, a 31-ounce can of pork and beans, 11/2 cups chopped celery, 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce, 1/2 teaspoon oregano. Simmer through until warm.

Blasta (Irish for delicious)!

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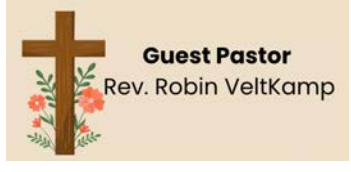
BEAVER ISLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

By Judi Meister & Sue Oole

faith



Rev. Robin VeltKamp lives in Newaygo, MI, and has served in ministry in various positions throughout her life. Robin married Wayne VeltKamp in January 1981 and together have faithfully served in various church ministries. Robin has served on two short-term mission trips, as a teen she served at Brainard Indian School (South Dakota) for a month, and with her daughter served with a 10-day team in Haiti in 2011 as they conducted a VBS for orphaned children and helped build a home orphanage.

Robin felt the call to study for ordained ministry and was installed in September 2012. Since her ordination, she has served as Senior Pastor in Munising, MI, Assistant Pastor in Burton, MI, and Senior Pastor in Remus, MI. She retired in May 2022 but still serves in ministry in various areas as needed. Wayne and Robin love participating in ministry at Beaver Island beginning with their first visit in August 2018. Robin has served at the Beaver Island Christian church in the annual VBS program for three years.

Wayne and Robin have four children and eight grandchildren. Their life goal is to serve the Lord in the area needed and to work toward kingdom-building as they share their love and testimony with those they meet.

Thanksgiving
There will be a Community Thanksgiving Service at the St. James Episcopal Mission on Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 a.m., with participants from all the churches. There will also be an offering-time with donations of non-perishable foods and paper products for the Food Pantry gratefully accepted. Everyone welcome; come as you are!!
THANKSGIVING DINNER
The Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be at 6:00 on Thanksgiving Day at the Gregg Fellowship Center. Turkey, Mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, and beverages will be provided. Bring a dish to pass if you are able. Everyone welcome, come as you are!!

BEAVER ISLAND
COOKIE CARNIVAL
• Pre-order forms will be available
• Shopping in person on Saturday, Dec 14 at the Gregg Fellowship Center
• Stay tuned for more details

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Keeping Island History Alive

NORTHERN ISLANDER

NORTHERN ISLANDER

GIVE THE GIFT OF THE NORTHERN ISLANDER

The Holidays are right around the corner and we have the perfect gift for your Friends and Family who love Beaver Island. Why not give them a one-year subscription to the Northern Islander? You could pay online, call our office or snail mail us a check. The rates are $57.00 for first-class postage or $42.00 for regular mail.

Payments received by the 15th of the month will ensure your gift will be processed by December 1st or January 1st. Also, the Beaver Beacon Magazine will be available in December and you may order the 2024 copy at that time.

SHOP LOCAL-UNIQUE GIFTS FROM THE PRINT SHOP MUSEUM

Stop in and visit us at the **Holiday Bazaar on Nov 10 from 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.** or shop local on **Small Business Saturday, Nov 20 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** at the Print Shop Museum Gift Shop.

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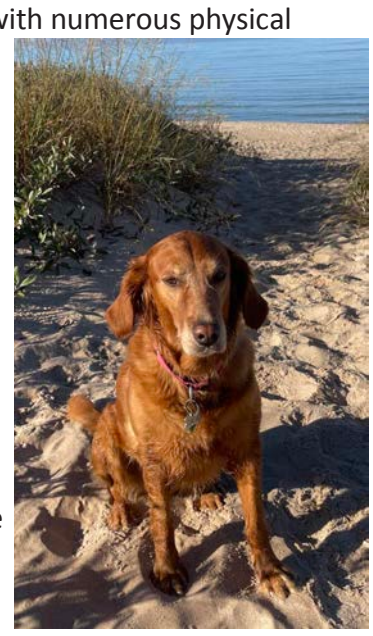
Furbabies of Beaver Island

MEET GALIA

By Joan Callan

In 2021, my husband and I were contacted by a dog rescue organization, As Good As Gold. They informed us that they had a 4-year-old Golden, "Galia" (her Spanish name) who was displaced in the Puerto Rico hurricane and who had been brought to a dog shelter with numerous physical ailments, and was being flown up to Chicago on a United flight. We immediately agreed to take her sight unseen!



She joined our family and was very responsive to the new loving environment that we tried to provide after all the physical and emotional trauma she had experienced from the displacement. After two surgeries to fix an abscessed tooth and a distended nipple, we brought her to Beaver Island the following summer and she loved island life, especially the swims and the runs on Donegal Bay, which provided her with all the freedom that she had never experienced in PR. Thereafter, subsequent summer and fall seasons on Beaver Island became her "happy place," allowing her to play and frolic in the island's beautiful habitats.

In June of 2024 while on Beaver Island, Galia became very sick with nausea, no appetite, extremely weak, and an inability to walk. We flew her off the island immediately (thank you, Tammy LaFraniere & Island Airways, for your immediate concern for her emergency) and we sought veterinary care in East Jordan. The vet on duty did an ultrasound and found an "abdominal mass" but without further testing, he could not diagnose what the mass was. He sent us to the Bay View Animal hospital in Traverse City where Galia spent the night receiving "comfort care." I actually signed a DNR statement, as she was not expected to live through the night, and we said our "goodbyes." She survived the night, and we decided to take her to our Chicago suburban veterinarian who had treated her initially upon her entry into the US.

After much further investigation to determine the cause of the mass, our vet believed that the only way to potentially save Galia's life was to perform major surgery. Although Galia had been spayed in PR, it had been a "botched" hysterectomy and part of her uterus and ovaries had been left inside her abdomen and became infected. So instead of cancer, which had been at the forefront of the possibilities, Galia had a 2nd hysterectomy to remove the lingering abdominal mass which later was determined that it was not cancerous!

A month later, we brought her back to Beaver Island to heal. With her 12-inch incision and T-shirt wrapped around her abdomen so that she would keep her multiple stitches intact, she very slowly made progress in healing. Beaver Island provided her with the perfect environment to keep her quiet and give her the best chance of a full recovery. Additionally, our island friends showered her with their concern and dog treats, including freshly caught fish from Lake Michigan to entice her to eat! My husband and I truly do believe that both the tranquil environment and the kind-hearted people of Beaver Island contributed to her overall recovery! Upon hearing of Galia's story recently, a friend asked me if I believed Galia's recovery was a miracle and I responded with a resounding "YES!" So we are blessed and joyful, enjoying the healthy return of our sweet pup and her extended lifespan. We are so grateful that Beaver Island never disappoints…..as it often serves as a healing refuge for both dogs and humans alike!

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY
MICHIGAN

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SYNOPSIS SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on September 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Five Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Christensen.

Motion approved the agenda as amended.

Motion approved the consent agenda as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #24-109, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved appointment of John Bush to the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Motion approved Resolution #24-110, Whiting Park Electrical Upgrade Change Order No. 1.

Motion approved Resolution #24-111, Establishing the Charlevoix County Materials Management Designated Planning Agency.

Motion approved Resolution #24-113, Establishing the Charlevoix County Materials Management Planning Committee.

Motion approved Resolution #24-113, Civil Counsel Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #24-114, Court Compliance Officer.

Motion approved Resolution #24-115, Agreement for Extension Services.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 6:29 p.m. Complete copies of Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SYNOPSIS OCTOBER 9, 2024

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on October 9, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Six Commissioners were present.

Motion approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved the consent agenda as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #24-116, County Expenditures.

Motion approved Resolution #24-117, Public Hearing Notice.

Motion approved Resolution #24-118, 2024 Apportionment Report .

Motion approved Resolution #24-119, County Network Switches.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 10:18 a.m. Complete copies of Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

Calling All Beavers: Please Join Our Northern Islander Family

The Beaver Island Historical Society is delighted to have acquired the Northern Islander newspaper. Our aim is to preserve and honor our history, deliver Island news, educate our readers, and provide endless smiles and memories.

We are committed to creating a new publication with an authentic vision and enthusiastic leadership team dedicated to producing relevant storytelling experiences for the community, by the community.

As a nonprofit organization, we can only succeed and thrive with your support. Please join this adventure and help the BIHS by telling your family and friends to subscribe **NOW** and make the paper an important part of your life!

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